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Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to PLF Seaborne Operation Continues

PLF Says Weakness Exposed

LD1606174290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1613 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut, June 16 (KUNA)—The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) Saturday said that its seaborne attack on Tel Aviv beaches codenamed the Jerusalem Operation had exposed "weakness and fragility of the enemy's defense means."

The operation also crumbled Israel's allegations that Palestinian freedom fighters could not reach its military targets and [word indistinct] institutions, a PLF statement issued by its Central Committee here said.

The statement, a copy of which (?was passed) to KUNA here, said that operation had affirmed that military might foils the enemy's expansionist aspirations and that acquiring advanced combat methods spread fears among its ranks.

It said that a meeting for the Central Committee in the period June 11-15 had discussed Arab and Palestinian political developments and evaluated military and political results [words indistinct] it claims keenness on solving (?world) crises and easing tensions while at the same time it encourages and backs Israeli aggressions.

The American Administration's stands on the international level totally conform with the Zionist goals (?in) an (?unprecedented) manner, the statement went on.

The PLF warned against practices of certain Arab regimes which harmonize with the Zionist enemy under American patronage against the PLO and the Palestinian people's struggle.

Such practices emanate from those regimes (?who) desire to preserve their authority, it said, adding that any proposals on the Palestine cause should be thoroughly checked within national institutions.

On the formation of the new Israeli Government, the front said that inclusion of terrorist Ariel Sharon as the housing minister proves the intention to absorb more Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab land and expel Palestinians from their homeland.

The formation of the Israeli Government [words indistinct] terrorism reflected the Zionist entity's absolute rejection of the Palestinian peace initiative presented at the 19th Session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, 1988, the Front charged.

The Front hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian masses and fighters as well as Iraq and Libya in their confrontation against aggression and rejection of submission before American-Zionist challenges.

Khalaf on Raid, U.S. Ties

JN1606170090 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Jun 90 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by an unidentified AL-QABAS reporter in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-QABAS] Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has carried out a daring operation. The question is: Why did he do it at this time in particular when the Arab summit conference was about to conclude in Baghdad? What is the exact purpose of this operation?

[Khalaf] Before I answer this question, we must talk about the structure of the Palestinian house. There are a number of fedayeen factions. There is also the Palestinian Liberation Army and military forces answerable to the [PLO] Executive Committee. The army has a Supreme Military Council, and the Executive Committee is responsible for this army, which leads or prevents any action. Certain organizations still have members in what they call the western sector for fedayeen action. The PLO has no control over them because they are directly affiliated with those factions.

[AL-QABAS] But the PLO has officially pledged to the United States not to carry out any act of terrorism. Washington says this was an act of terrorism and the PLO must condemn it. Is Abu-al-'Abbas an Executive Committee member?

[Khalaf] We have committed ourselves to fighting any external operation outside the Palestinian homeland. We have never pledged to halt armed struggle against occupation inside the occupied homeland.

[AL-QABAS] Israel says the fedayeen came to kill civilians, or holidaymakers, on the beach.

[Khalaf] You cannot hold me accountable for the intentions. The fedayeen did not kill Israeli civilians. Had they killed any Israeli civilian, we would have had enough courage to condemn the operation. Anyhow, we are against killing Israeli civilians, both inside and outside Israel. We fight only the Israeli Army which occupies our territories. This is how we understand armed struggle. From the beginning of the intifadah, we decided not to harm civilians. What is the use of killing an Israeli child? This is not something we do.

[AL-QABAS] But what is the purpose of this attack?

[Khalaf] Abu-al-'Abbas says he did it to attack Israeli military installations. We are studying the subject to know exactly if he really targeted civilians as Israel claims. One thing no one can deny is the fact that the 11 young men who reached the beach before the Israeli Army reached them had enough time to open fire and kill as many Israeli holidaymakers as they could when they were only meters away from them on the beach; but

they did not do so. They did not want to kill any civilians. If they wanted to strike civilians, they would have killed many of them.

Israel claimed on radio and television that it confiscated documents from the group leader confirming their attack targeted civilians. Okay, they did not kill any civilians and this is a fact. Therefore, I say this operation falls within the framework of armed struggle against occupation irrespective of the nature of the operation and whether its timing was right or not. I am defending the principle, not the act.

[AL-QABAS] It is known that such an operation will not hurt Israel. Why then did Abu-al-'Abbas carry it out?

[Khalaf] By carrying out such an operation, I believe Abu-al-'Abbas wanted to say: I have every right to carry out armed struggle against an army occupying my homeland. But the Americans have embarrassed us with their demands and forced us to remain silent.

[AL-QABAS] What do they want from you? What have they asked you to do?

[Khalaf] It would have been acceptable for them to send us a letter saying the following, for example: We ask you to condemn the operation. But they fell into the trap and linked this with the continuation or suspension of the dialogue. This means that the U.S. side does not view the dialogue seriously.

[AL-QABAS] Are these their conditions?

[Khalaf] Yes. They sent official letters to us asking us to choose between condemnation and suspension of the dialogue. We reject such an approach. We say that the principle of the dialogue should not be linked to U.S. demands, particularly to things on which disagreement still exists. From the very first moment of the beginning of the dialogue, the U.S. question has been: To what extent are the Palestinians committed to not practicing terrorism and to distancing themselves from it? We told them: We are against any outside operation that harms civilians of any nationality in the world, including Israelis or Jews, whether in or outside Palestine. I am revealing a secret by telling you that over the past 10 years, our security organs have foiled more than 200 terrorist operations abroad. We have extensive relations with the Europeans who know how much we cooperate with them to combat any terrorist manifestation abroad to be carried out by either Palestinians, Arab extremists, or even international organizations. They all know how much we cooperate and work with them. We do this, not to serve Europe or the United States, but because we are basically against terrorism. We are a people who have been victims of terrorism. As for armed struggle, we explicitly told them the following: Our land is occupied and the United Nations gives us the right to armed resistance against the occupation and the United Nations tells us that we have the right to use all means to attain our right to self-determination and freedom. I would like to repeat one thing: Had the Abu-al-'Abbas operation killed even one civilian, all the Palestinian organizations would have condemned it.

[AL-QABAS] So far we have not obtained an answer. Why did Abu-al-'Abbas carry out this operation at this time in particular? Was it to embarrass Arab leaders at the Baghdad summit?

[Khalaf] One of his objectives could have been to embarrass the Arab leaders. Perhaps, he wanted to tell them: Look, this is how armed struggle should be. Here, I would like to tell you the folowing: Israel knew about the operation from A to Z. It monitored all the stages of the operation. They let the fedayeen reach the shore in the hope that they would kill civilians so that Israel might tell the United States: See, the PLO is a terrorist organization. Suspend dialogue with it. In any case, I do not know what he intended with the operation. Much can be said about the timing of the operation. There was the U.S. veto but the operation began before the veto. Israel is now exploiting the operation. The Jewish lobby in the United States is bringing pressure to bear on the United States to have it describe the PLO as a terrorist organization. Until now, I have not seen or heard in my life that a person can be judged for his intentions alone. Not a single civilian was killed in the operation, so why raise this fuss?

Many are asking us to expel Abu-al-'Abbas from the PLO. But we have laws in the PLO that prevent us from expelling Abu-al-'Abbas.

[AL-QABAS] Is the United States serious about cutting off the dialogue with you?

[Khalaf] I believe that cutting off the dialogue would not be in the interest of the United States. However, I cannot guess the magnitude of the Jewish influence which is playing a large role in a U.S. decision on the issue. We are approaching congressional elections. Halting the dialogue with the PLO would mean the end of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's initiative. If such a development materializes, we would ask the following question: Who would seek a dialogue if they halt their dialogue with us? Besides, this would also mean that the U.S. efforts to launch a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the region have collapsed. Of course, Israel insists on having the dialogue cut off because it does not want peace. The new Israeli Government includes Minister Eytan, a former Israeli chief of staff, who once said: I will treat Palestinians as cockroaches and place them in bottles to have them liquidated. When compared to Eytan, Sharon can be viewed as a moderate. This is the makeup of the new Israeli Government. So, if the United States cuts off the dialogue, this means that Washington has killed all hopes for peace in the immediate and not too distant future.

[AL-QABAS] Let the United States and its dialogue go to hell. Suppose that the United States succumbed to Israel and cut off its dialogue with you, would you regret it?

[Khalaf] I always repeat that I would rather not sever ties with a superpower such as the United States. It is true that the dialogue has not yielded positive results. We are not adventurists. We are aware of the U.S. leverage.

Since the dialogue was initiated, bitter developments have plagued us. They recently used the veto, Congress passed resolutions recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and Moscow and Washington concluded a deal on Jewish emigration. Many other bitter events have befallen us since the dialogue was started. Practically speaking, the dialogue has become virtually dead. We are neither politically immature nor adventurists. I would not be happy if they cut off the dialogue.

We will not, however, beg for a continuation of the dialogue. We will not weep if the dialogue is halted. The United States is well aware that halting the dialogue would be a free gift to Palestinian, Arab, and Israeli extremists. Halting the dialogue would resurrect the spiral of violence in the Middle East. The PLO's ability to control such violence would be considerably reduced. Since the beginning of the dialogue, no acts of violence have taken place.

[AL-QABAS] You have renounced violence, recognized Israel, and recognized Resolutions 242 and 338. What have you obtained in return?

[Khalaf] That is true. Everybody is asking us: What have you obtained? Or to be more exact, what has Israel given you in return for all this? However, I would like to note that we have in the region a large army of extremists—a large army of Islamic extremists, a large army of pan-Arab extremists, and a large army of terrorists such as Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], and others. All of these are demanding and asking you: What have you done? It is not only the Palestinian people who are asking you this question. No, the entire Arab people is asking the same question. They are blaming us in Amman mosques. Every Friday, sermon givers stand and spew vituperation on us. They are using the term "Yasir 'Arafat and his clique." Even the residents of refugee camps have begun to say that we have given everything in return for nothing.

[AL-QABAS] Right, what have you got?

[Khalaf] We have won Europe. Politically, it has begun to respect us as a logical and moderate organization, and we have also won a large part of U.S. public opinion.

[AL-QABAS] What does this mean? Where are our rights? What have we obtained?

[Khalaf] You are right. This is what the Arab citizen feels. The Europeans respect and support us. It is true that this does not give us one inch of Palestine's land. This is why Abu-al-'Abbas, Abu-Nidal, Hamas, and the Muslim Brotherhood say that this policy will lead to nothing and that we have to take another course. I believe in dialogue for peace. We believe in and will adhere to this course. We also know that even if an Israeli-Arab war erupts, it will raise the slogan of two states in Palestine. The world balance of powers will not allow more than this solution. Let those who believe themselves to be heroes show me another solution. I admit that, through my peace proposal, I may lose my credibility in the eyes of my people, but the world supports me. What is the use of losing the world's support?

[AL-QABAS] You have not obtained anything. Is it better to abandon the peace initiative and begin serious work to reach freedom and self-determination?

[Khalaf] No. It is better for me not to abandon it despite that. We will adhere to the peace initiative. If you say: Change your ways, I will say: You are right. I will change my ways despite massacres against us, and if one man is left alive, he will shoot those who are slaying us. I frankly say: I cannot control and prevent a Fatah struggler carrying a gun from shooting his butchers as he sees the daily massacres against us.

[AL-QABAS] A two-year old peace initiative and the result was the most extremist Israeli Government in Israel's history. Is it not right?

[Khalaf] No, no. It is true that the Israeli Government is a government of war, but this is not evidence that the peace initiative was the reason. No, no, this is evidence that Israeli society is still backward and runs on the prevailing mentality. It is the mentality of war, expansion, and more immigration. By launching our peace initiative, we have unveiled that mentality and also proved to the whole world that the Arabs and the Palestinians are civilized and want a realistic peace based on two states. The Israelis want a surrender as part of their own ambitions.

[AL-QABAS] For God's sake, Abu-Iyad, tell us: Have any people in history ever won their state and freedom through peace initiatives, concessions, and negotiations? Do you really think you can get your state from a Zionist enemy whose intentions and nature you know well?

[Khalaf] Our peace initiative was the outcome of a long journey of pain and hardship. No other people have suffered oppression, expulsion, and pain as we have. They have denied us everything. Forty-one years without passports or residence permits. We have done everything. We have joined parties and groups and we intervened in the domestic affairs of Arab states. We have done everything. Then came the experience of the intifadah. We have not stopped armed struggle. It was the Fes summit of 1982 that stopped armed struggle, not we. We launched the intifadah so that we could finally have our political, diplomatic, social, and national rest. The Fes conference stopped the decision of armed struggle and we remained alone in the field carrying arms and fighting. Since 1982, we have suffered division and conflict. In spite of all this, we launched the intifadah alone, and we launched this political initiative alone.

I want to answer your question by saying this: This is a government of war. There are massacres against us every day in Palestine. Give me only one guarantee, or a semi-guarantee, that a single Arab missile will be launched. I only want a single Arab missile to be launched to stop these massacres against us, or at least to reply to these massacres.

[AL-QABAS] What do you expect from the new government, the government of extremists, in Israel? Is it a government of war or of peace?

[Khalaf] In my opinion, this is the most dangerous government to be seen in Israel because it is made up of people who all call for war. Shamir raises the slogan of crushing the intifadah and he has charged the defense minister with this task. The new government will launch small wars to occupy Jordan, or a large part of Jordan, to deport the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and absorb the new Soviet immigrants.

[AL-QABAS] Do you expect the intifadah to be crushed?

[Khalaf] I say they will crush the intifadah if they kill all the Palestinian people; that is, if they kill 1.5 million Palestinians inside [the occupied territories].

[AL-QABAS] How would the intifadah respond to this government?

[Khalaf] The intifadah will develop in accordance with the development in and the size of Israeli violence. It is unreasonable for Palestinians to respond to Israeli bullets with stones. I believe war will start in six or eight months at most. This is the period required to absorb tens of thousands of Soviet immigrants in Israel.

Official on Reported Probe

JN1606175590 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] In reply to a question by AL-QABAS on the news report carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES to the effect that a Palestinian investigation committee had been formed to probe the implications of the al-Quds seaborne operation, a highly-placed Palestinian official said: The statement made by the official Palestinian spokesman in Baghdad on 11 June was very clear. It left no room for additional comment on the issue.

On whether the formation of an investigation committee was in response to a U.S. demand, the spokesman [as published] read paragraphs from the official statement saying: Israel's crimes against our workers, children, women, and people are increasing daily as a result of the protection provided by the U.S. veto and support for Israel.

PFLP's Al-Zibri Hails Raid

JN1706162690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Jun 90 p 25

[From Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and member of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday warned that the new Israeli government is manufactured in the United States and that its primary tasks are to wipe out the intifadah by using more bloodthirsty methods, expand Jewish settlements, and expel Palestinian citizens. Mustafa told AL-ANBA' that the Shamir government is the true picture and the best image of Israeli society.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa praised the seaborne al-Quds operation carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF]. He said that the PFLP political bureau had praised the operation as well as the fighters who carried it out and reached the shores of Palestine. Mustafa considered that the operation was in line with the continuation of armed struggle. He described the official PLO spokesman's statement about the operation as a response to Washington's pressure and blackmail and said: How can a Palestinian official, who has never carried a gun in his life, evaluate such an operation?

Abu-Ali Mustafa said the one and a half years of the U.S.-PLO dialogue have not achieved anything and that the aim of this dialogue is to tame the Palestinian mind and make it susceptible to blackmail and concessions. He said that this dialogue is a means of diverting Palestinian attention and that a great price has been paid for cheap stock. He added that the American threat to stop the dialogue is like "brandishing a wooden sword."

Salah Khalaf Comments on Future of Region

Arab-Israeli War 'Expected'

LD1506160590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1413 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 15 June (KUNA)—A Central Committee member of the Palestinian Fatah Movement Friday emphasized the necessity of Iraqi-Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation to confront the Israeli dangers.

Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) said, in a press interview published here today, that the Arab nation has issued enough resolutions but they must use their capabilities for confrontation of the Israeli aggression.

He pointed out that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue did not come out with the expected results, and added that the U.S. warning to break off dialogue after the sea-borne raid on the Tel Aviv coast, committed by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), was a strange reaction by a superpower.

Speaking on the possibility of [the United States] breaking off dialogue with the PLO, Abu-Iyad said it gives Israel the American green light to launch a war in the region.

He said that Arab-Israeli war is expected, and that the PLO has information about the Israeli intention about this war.

Asked about the recent Iraqi-Iranian exchange of letters, Abu-Iyad said this would result in peace in the region.

On Israel's Strike Plans

LD1506132890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Salah Khalaf, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, disclosed in an interview to the Tunisian weekly paper AL-MAOUKIF, published in today's

edition, that the PLO has information that Israel is planning on directing a strike against Libya and another one against Jordan and that it will attempt to strike against and assassinate members of the Palestinian leadership.

Defends PLO Policy

LD1606105190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1007 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyyad, stressed that the PLO expressed a commitment to halt external operations only, and it did not commit iself to suspending the armed struggle inside the occupied territories.

The Palestinian official told the Kuwait AL-QABAS, published today: The Jerusalem coast operation, which was carried out by fighters from the Palestinian Liberation Front under the leadership of Abu al-'Abbas, falls within the context of the armed struggle against the occupation. He pointed out that the fighters did not kill one single Israeli civilian; had they killed any Israel civilian the PLO would have had enough courage to condemn this operation.

In his statement to AL-QABAS, Abu Iyyad noted that the PLO is against the killing of Israeli civilians either inside or outside Israel. He emphasized: We are at war only against the Israeli army that occupies our land. This is our understanding of the armed struggle. Since the beginning of the Intifadah, we took the decision not to attack civilians.

With regard to the purpose behind the Jerusalem coastal operation, the Palestinian official stated that this operation comes within the framework of the armed struggle against the occupation irrespective of the nature of the operation and whether its timing was right or not.

Concerning the dialogue with the United States and Washington's threat to halt this dialogue, Abu Iyyad said: We did not beg nor did we shed tears for this dialogue. The United States understands that to suspend such dialogue means to present a free gift to the Palestinian extremists, the Arab extremists, and the Israeli extremists. Also, to suspend this dialogue entails resumption of the violence in the Middle East region.

Abu Iyyad disclosed that, up to now, the Palestinian security service has foiled more than 200 terrorist operations in the world, and that the PLO has always been against terrorism, in addition to the fact that it is the Palestinians who are victims of terrorism.

He described the new Israeli government as the most dangerous Zionist government because it campaigns for war and aims at occupying Jordan, so as to deport the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to accommodate the new Soviet immigrants.

Abu-Sharif Says PLO Still Ready To Negotiate

JN1506170690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has reasserted the PLO's commitment to its peace initiative and its readiness to reach a negotiated solution to the Palestine issue.

Abu-Sharif explained, furthermore, that the PLO still adheres to the UN resolutions as the basis for securing a solution to the Palestine problem based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In a press conference last night in Ottawa at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Canada, during which he met with senior Canadian officials, Abu-Sharif stressed that the Zionist enemy's rejection of all peace initiatives, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, has led to the current stalemate in the region. He pointed out, nevertheless, that the PLO is still willing to engage in negotiations with the Zionist entity immediately to settle the Palestine issue on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Brother Abu-Sharif described the new Zionist enemy's government as a factor of tension in the region. He warned against the expansionist ideology of the Zionist government, pointing out that this ideology drives the region to the brink of a war that might engulf all parties.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif called on the world community and the concerned parties to contribute to easing the tension in the region.

DFLP Urges PLO To Reject U.S. Conditions

JN1706192090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], urged the PLO from Damascus today to reject U.S. conditions. He declared that Palestinian armed resistance is a sacred right. He also accused the Shamir government of being an enemy of peace, as he put it.

Qaddumi Discusses U.S. Policy on Middle East

Behind Failure of Peace Efforts

JN1706190990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, today held the United States responsible for the collapse of the peace efforts in the Middle East. He said that Washington is a direct factor in the destruction of peace endeavors, adding that the new Israeli Government does not want peace but a new war against the Arabs.

Pro-Israel Bias Continues

LD1706222190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq al-Qaddumi], head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has said that the United States biased position toward Israel has not changed and that apparent press criticism of the formation of the Israeli Government does not represent a fundamental difference between the United States and its ally, Israel. This is because U.S. policy aims at getting rid of the pressures world opinion is exercising on Washington as a superpower which is being held responsible for obstructing the peace process in the Middle East region. The emergence of an extremist right-wing government increases U.S. embarrassment because U.S. policy aims at playing for time and giving Israel one chance after another to repress the Palestinian intifadah, consolidate its internal strength and unity, and assimilate the largest possible number of Soviet immigrants so as complicate the situation by imposing new realities in the occupied Palestine territories and the entire Arab region.

With regards to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, brother Abu-al-Lutf said in a press interview: We had hoped to have a serious and responsible dialogue with the United States as a superpower which one cannot escape from having a dialogue because it considers itself a party to the dialogue, and declares without qualification that it is biased toward Israel, concerned with its security and continuity, and is a friend, partner and ally of Israel.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf added that the United States had not raised the level of the dialogue and had avoided, during all the previous sessions, discussions of a settlement, an international conference and recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially its right to self-determination. It has continued to prevaricate and to revert to secondary and side issues in order to lure the PLO into making whatever concessions it can to the United States.

After noting that the European states are still procrastinating over taking practical measures to help in convening an international conference and making progress in the cause of peace, Brother Abu-al-Lutf spoke about the intifadah. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Denies Involvement in Fatah Clashes

JN1706170490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Reacting to allegations disseminated by news agencies that elements from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] have participated in the fighting that has been raging for days among Fatah factions in the al-Rashidiyah camp [southern Lebanon], an official source in the PFLP-GC has stated the following:

The PFLP-GC has no connection whatsoever with the differences among the Fatah factions, either in al-Rashidiyah or anywhere else. Moreover, we are convinced that such events are completely fabricated by the capitulationist line and that they serve only the enemies of the Palestinian resistance.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

'Arafat Sends Message to Acting GDR Premier

JN1606200290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, handed a message to Manfred Stantke, GDR ambassador to the State of Palestine, to be given to Mrs. (Sabine Bergmann-Pohl), acting GDR prime minister.

The ambassador renewed his country's support for our Palestinian people's struggle. He thanked the Palestinian leadership for facilitating his task of strengthening bilateral relations between the German and Palestinian people. He was speaking on the occasion of concluding his tour of duty as the first accredited GDR ambassador to the state of Palestine.

Algeria

FLN Issues Statement on 12 Jun Elections

LD1706230490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau issued a statement today [17 June] in which it said: The FLN Political Bureau has studied the circumstances in which the municipal and provincial elections were held on 12 June 1990, their results, and the decisions, general political stands and measures concerning the party's general organization dictated by these results. After a preliminary assessment of the elections, the Political Bureau arrived at some remarks [mulahazat] and conclusions including: The overall climate of the elections was not free from [words indistinct], encroachments and all kinds of behavior and practices that were contrary to the citizens' free choice. The general organization of these elections was not free from stands [mawaqif] and errors. However, this must not undermine the importance of this democratic experiment or obscure its general political significance.

By virtue of its special position, the FLN is called upon to learn all the lessons from this experience. All the political and societies, whether they have taken part in these elections or not, should make a similar study. Furthermore, all the citizens are called upon to think about the elections, the requirements of public interest and the democratic practice with individual and collective responsibilities.

The FLN Political Bureau's statement said that the general political significance of these elections was contained in the Algerian people's expression of their commitment to their national, religious, political and cultural identity, and their deep aspirations for progress, to change the situation and to eliminate the negative elements brought about by the societal development and the economic crisis. The FLN adopts these deep desires of the people, because they are in harmony with its social policy and the aspirations of its workers. The FLN will remain very concerned that Islam should be an element of unity, forgiveness and fraternity among Algerians, as it has been throughout our long history and particularly during the glorious November revolution. It rejects all attempts to return Islam to the era of charlatanism, myths, or to use it as an instrument of demagogy and political opportunism.

The FLN is of the opinion that it is necessary to draw a lesson from the results of these elections and to specify the required practical steps for extensive consultations to take place among the officials in charge of the parties and those who hold opinions in the country, in order to define the necessary conditions for consolidating the democratic march. The importance of the municipal and provincial councils—due to being the basic foundation of the state and the centers of decision as far as [word indistinct] citizens' issues—should contain, despite their multi-oriented formation, some concept of harmony that guarantees for them success and effectiveness in their work. The FLN representatives in these councils are called upon to participate in creating the conditions to promulgate the FLN message so that the FLN is a means for rallying Algerians and establishing dialogue between them.

Egypt

Irish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Received by 'Abd-Al-Majid

NC1706114190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Gerard Collins arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit which will take several days. He was received at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that Mr. Collins will hold talks on the EC role in the Middle East peace process, as well as on bilateral relations. Ireland is the current EC chairman.

'Abd-Al-Majid on Talks, EEC

NC1706181790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins at the Meridien Hotel in Heliopolis today. They exchanged views on current international and regional issues, and discussed ways to strengthen and develop cooperation between Egypt and Ireland in various fields.

After the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks were important and useful and covered international and regional issues, as well as bilateral relations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that the Irish foreign minister came to Cairo in his capacity as a member of the troika, which includes the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Ireland. He indicated that the EEC foreign ministers will meet in Luxembourg tomorrow to prepare for an EEC summit in Dublin at the end of this month.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid commended Europe's stand, saying it is positive and aims to promote the peace process. This stand also denounces Israel's practices and its violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Departs Cairo 17 Jun

NC1706182140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1757 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins left Cairo this afternoon, after arriving earlier today.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the Irish minister. Both ministers then held a news conference shortly before the Irish guest left Cairo today.

Al-Baz Returns From Addis Ababa With Message

NC1706193890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, returned to Cairo from Addis Ababa this evening after conveying a message to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam from President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and preparations for the African summit conference scheduled to be held in the Ethiopian capital from 9 through 11 July.

Ambassador Hasan Jasad-al-Haqq, director of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry, who accompanied Dr. al-Baz, said the Ethiopian president gave Dr. al-Baz a reply to President Mubarak's message. He said that during the visit preparations for the African summit in Addis Ababa in July were discussed.

Libya

Al-Qadhadhafi Addresses Students, Academic Staff

On Solving Educational Problems

LD1706193290 Tripoli JANA in English 1513 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Leader of the revolution addressed, via closed circuit, the students and academic staff of universities and higher colleges throughout Great Jamahiriyah on setting up self management for all the sectors of society considering that the solution lies in the masses assuming the running of their affairs by themselves.

He asserted the need for the solution of all education problems through students people's congresses and people's (?committees) which exist at the universities.

He said this method will guarantee your future, drink, travel, accommodation and medical treatment for there is no one else able to solve your problems. The establishment therefore, of people's power and self management for all these services constitute a fundamental and vital issue.

Denounces Multipartism

LD1706193790 Tripoli JANA in English 1516 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf 17, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the evolution talked about multipartism pointing out that multipartism is a sham.

During his meeting yesterday, via closed circuit, with the students and academic staff of universities and higher colleges throughout Great Jamahiryah, the leader of the revolution said that some people resorted to the formation parties thinking that once the masses form parties they can govern.

He stressed, in this respect, that will be impossible, for the parties are not the masses. They are merely small leaderships and groups who are seeking power and unable to solve the complex problems of modern society.

The leader made clear that multipartism dispersed all efforts and tore up all socities and lost democracy and the minority party is now seeking to reach power.

Problems Due to 'Impotence'

LD1706183190 Tripoli JANA in English 1622 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution made clear that the problems being suffered by the world are due to the impotence of those who pretend that they can solve the problems of others in this epoch.

During a meeting, via closed circuit, with the students and academic staff of higher education at universities and higher colleges throughout Great Jamahiriyah, the leader of the revolution pointed out that that impotence which led the masses to do what they are doing now in the world referring in this respect current events in Romania and demonstrations and clashes with the regime's police. [sentence as received]

On Contemporary Problems

LD1706184790 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEW AGENCY—The leader of the revolution declared that the contemporary problems are complex and one should not rely for their solution on others and the one who does not solve for himself these problems he will be committing suicide.

During meeting yesterday, via the closed circuit, with the students and academic staff of universities and higher colleges throughout Great Jamahiriyah, the leader of the revolution said "The jamahiri system means that all people form People's Congresses and People's Committees, solve their problems, distribute equally their wealth amongst themselves, defend themselves in a collective manner. This is the radical solution to the contemporary problems."

On Need To Create 'the Atom'

LD1706185490 Tripoli JANA in English 1629 GMT 17 Jun 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution enticed the

university students and academic staff of universities and higher colleges throughout Great Jamahiriyah to work day and night to shorten time and intensify efforts to reach space and manufacture the atom in defiance of America.

The leader of the revolution said "America manufactures missiles and put above our heads satellites...This provoke you and ignite in you the spirit of defiance and revolution to reach the space and manufacture the atom.

The leader pointed out that America (?sets) a scientific veto against the Libyans so as to prevent them from invading space and stop them from reaching the skies of America and Britain or the skies of occupied Palestine.

He added "We are not ready to any more time for we have before us serious challenges the Zionists manufactured over 200 nuclear head mounted on missiles with a range of thousands of kilometres directed against each Arab city. [sentence as received] He pointed out "this is unacceptable and we must work against it.

Denounces Religious Parties

LD1706194190 Tripoli JANA in English 1632 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution denounced the establishment by some people of religious parties in a number of Arab countries who thought that the present problem is a problem of faith..

He said, during his meeting via closed circuit with the students and academic staff of universities and higher education colleges throughout Great Jamahiriyah, the problem of faith no longer occupies the first position of the masses' interests for Muslims know the issues of their religion and they are in no need to anyone to teach them a new religion.

He added "those who set up religious parties and seek to [word indistinct] the name of God believe that there is no problem except the problem of faith." He pointed out the problem at present is a host of social and economic problems which the society is suffering from.

The leader made clear that, if a group ruled in the name of God, that would mean that we will go backward, discrimination will prevail between male and female and no criticism can be levelled against that group on the grounds that a religious authority is a sacred authority.

JANA on Israel's 'Admission' of Atomic Bomb

LD1806090290 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The terrorist Moshe Barkokhba, the Zionist assistant chief of staff, admitted that the Zionists have the atom bomb when he issued, in a radio interview, a warning to the Arabs not to dare and use chemical weapons because they that [as received] the so-called Israel destructive weapons and [word indistinct] Arabs would pay a dear price if they used chemical weapons.

This admission shows the arrogance (?which) makes Arab blood boil and entice them to stand proud and tall expressing the greatness of the Arab nation and its long and ancient history in the face of Zionist arrogance and defiance against their [word indistinct].

The Zionists' admission (?that they) possess the atomic bomb shows to the world that the Zionists are the real threat threatening mankind and that the Zionists are seeking, with the assistance of America and its media and political tools and technics [as received] to reverse the true picture and portray the (?Arabs) as the source of danger.

Terrorist Moshe Barkokhba asserted, during that interview, the [word indistinct] use tanks in palestinian villages [word indistinct]. He said "As the talk is surrounding the military decisiveness all possible means must be resorted to including tanks."

He added "We must deal with the Palestinian uprising on military basis and what is going on in the occupied areas is a real war and the time has come for decisiveness."

This confirmation of involving the tanks at the scene of confrontations between the defenceless and unarmed Palestinian Arabs and the Zionist occupying forces proves once more that the Zionists are heading towards the collective extermination of the Palestinian people. The statement of the use of all possible means including tanks puts the world before the real danger represented by the Zionists who are [as received] fill the world with the noise when a Palestinian carries out an operation against a position inside their occupied land.

Also this statement rings the bells of danger in the ears of the world to know that Arabs are not to blame when they head for civilian targets inside occupied Palestine for it is not conceivable to prohibit Arabs of doing things which the Zionists shamelessly and arrogantly allow themselves to do.

The Zionist military man went [words indistinct] his disregard for international will and world public opinion when he announced frankly that all the zionists are interested in is their security and safety and that these are more important than the protests which come from here or there.

This arrogance will instigate Arabs to stand ready for justice is on their side and their land was usurped, their children are dying daily as a result of savage massacres at the hands of the invaders who came from all parts of the world to set up an invading state in occupied Palestine with the sponsorship and protection of America and Western countries.

This statement proves to the Arabs what we have already asserted to them again and again on many occasions that the Arab-Zionist conflict is a conflict of existence and

not for borders and that the Zionists are conducting genocide against the Arab nation so as to set up in their lieu an evil empire which is the open and naked dream which terrorist Barkokhba reaffirmed in his radio statement when he said "The area will witness more wars and whenever the opportunity arises the Arabs attempt to destroy Israel and the conflict will continue for more generations."

This statement by terrorist Barkokhba expresses the truth for the conflict will continue because the conflict is one for existence and not for borders will be inevitably settled with the existence with one nationality only in the region. It is not a conflict of borders for the Zionist dream's borders extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. After this there is nothing left before the Arabs except to move for the liberation of Palestine from the sea to the river and south to south otherwise the fate of the Red Indians would wait for them.

Mauritania

New Government Appointments Announced 17 Jun

LD1706221790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation has announced that in accordance with a decree issued today, the following appointments have been made:

(Ahmed Ould Sidi Ould Halima) as minister of commerce, handcrafts, and tourism;

Major (Mohamed Ould Sid'Ahmed Lakhal) as minister of rural development;

(Ahmed Ould Sid'Ahmed) as minister of state in charge of Arab Meghreb Union Affairs.

The chairmanship of the Military Committee of National Salvation also has announced that, in accordance with a decree issued today, Colonel (Sidi Yaoud Mohamed Yahya) has been appointed assistant national chief of staff. The chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation also has announced that, in accordance with a decree issued today, (Hammoud Oulah) has been appointed adviser in the Bureau of the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation.

Sudan

Envoy to U.S. Affirms Mutual Understanding

EA1406132690 Khartoun SUNA in English 0922 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 June (SUNA)—Sudan's ambassador to Washington, 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Abdallah, said that the chance is available for developing relations between Sudan and the U.S. to achieve the interests of the two countries.

In an interview with the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" of today, 'Abdallah said that the U.S. Government had understood the nature of the conflict in Sudan, specially regarding the Shari'ah issue, which, he said, [is] an issue that could be handled.

The U.S. Government believes the seriousness of the Sudanese Government efforts for ending the southern question by all means of dialogue, particularly the national dialogue conference on peace which was able to touch, for the first time, the roots of the problem, indicating that the U.S. Government could deal with any strong government which has a clear programme.

Equatoria Region Governor on Yei Situation

EA1606104690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 June (SUNA)—The armed forces had managed to foil all the rebellion's attempts to take over Yei town and its outskirts, affirmed governor of the Equatoria Region, Major General Allison Magaya.

In a statement to the daily "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH", published today Maj Gen Allison Magaya said the number of citizens who returned to the city had reached 25,000. On the relief operations in the region Maj Gen Allison Magaya said "the situation is satisfactory".

Foreign Ministry Upholds Weapons Policy

JN1706092990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has said that the American claim—that by developing nonconventional weapons Iraq is placing itself on a collision course with the West and the United States—entails clear bias and false accusation against Iraq. Commenting on a statement by John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs—in a testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—the Iraqi official told INA that this claim is made only because Iraq adheres to its right and the Arab nation's natural rights to life, security, and stability as these are the rights of all people on earth. This also means that the United States does not want Iraq and the Arabs to live with dignity, security, and full sovereignty in terms of their rights or to defend these rights.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary affirmed that Iraq and the Arab nation have chosen the path of a secure and stable life, but they have also opted for the path of dignity from which they cannot retreat. This path is represented by their adherence to their right, the right of all nations and peoples, the right to defend their independence, sovereignty, security, and honor.

Paper Reacts to Bar-Kokhba Remarks, Warns of War

JN1606154790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH states that any new Zionist-imperialist aggression on the Arab nation will be repulsed forcefully by showing an Arab will that has the ability to withstand a protracted confrontation.

In an article published today headlined "Moshe Bar-Kokhba Will Not Frighten Arabs," the paper says: The Zionists and imperialists must understand that the 1967 picnic and the regional as well as international interventions in the 1973 war will not affect the Arab reply to a Zionist aggression, because such a reply will entail an all-out war.

The paper states that Iraqi experience, gained in an eight-year war, will not be shaken by a Zionist show of force such as the strike on the Tammuz reactor.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that in his remarks, Moshe Bar-Khokhba, Zionist assistant chief of staff, beats the drums of war in the Zionist entity and reveals that the Zionists are preparing for a new aggression against the Arabs.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that statements recently made by Zionist ministers reflect an attempt at psychological deterrence designed to prepare the stage for the forthcoming Zionist invasion. The paper goes on to say that the most important strategic objective of the Zionists right now is to destroy the scientific base of the Arabs because the situation, in terms of technological know-how, is no longer in favor of the Zionist entity.

The paper says that the absorption of large numbers of Jewish immigrants and the plan to expel the Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza Strip are achievable objectives, considering mass immigration and a possible new aggression with the support and backing of the United States.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes by saying: The Zionist entity must understand well what the Arab response and particularly the Iraqi response will be. Bar-Kokhba must understand that his remarks will frighten no one, as the march of the Arab nation is unstoppable.

Source Denies Iraq Refused Jordan Arms Request

JN1806100190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—A media source has denied what was published in the French magazine, Mashra Contravential [name as received], dedicated to intelligence issues in the Middle East, that Iraq has rejected a request made by Jordan to provide it with arms and military equipment and that President Saddam Husayn, as the magazine claims, did not approve the request after negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat for fear that Jordan will use these arms against the Palestinians living within its borders.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the source said that fraternal Jordan did not ask for weapons, nor did we reject them. If at any time Jordan asks for anything that we have we will not hesitate [to provide it].

He pointed out that the objective behind the report is clear. The Arabs are one family and the brother president of the state of Palestine is the brother of the Jordanian monarch. The relationship between the Jordanians and the Palestinians is firmer than any attempts to distort it through a prevaricating and suspect article.

Saddam Returns From Sanaa After Two-Day Visit

JN1706160990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad this afternoon after a two-day visit to the fraternal Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Discussion Continues Regarding U.S. Dialogue

Meridor Interviewed

TA1606103390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Mikha Friedman; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr. Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Friedman] Let me ask you right away: Is this the government you prayed for, Mr. Meridor?

[Meridor] It is no secret that I was of the opinion we needed a broader government. In view of the past 18 months, however, I must say that—after we in the Likud made an honest effort and were ready to pay a heavy political price—we learned a bitter lesson following the attempts of the other side to break the government from within. In view of all this we now have a government that has a great advantage. I hope that it can make clear statements in a single voice, without attempts to foil it from within.

[Friedman] Is Ghandi [Moledet Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi] a single voice with the Likud, with you?

[Meridor] Let me remind you that this government has guidelines, the central political clauses of which are the Camp David agreements and the peace initiative from 14 May 1989. On the economic aspect, we are in the first stages of a campaign for, I hope, major changes that will bring us growth. First and foremost we will deal with immigrant absorption. We have formulated agreed-upon guidelines on all these issues. If the partners to the government want to maintain the government, and I believe they do, and if they are faithful to what they have endorsed, there is a chance that we will talk in a single voice on the major issues in order to help each other. This was not the case before, because several people had an interest in breaking up the government. This, at least, is what Yitzhaq Rabin said about his partners.

[Friedman] Still, Mr. Meridor, this is a government where Sharon and his constraints have a power they did not have before, one that is attacked in the United States as well. This is a government where your own position, as well as the position of the other princes, has diminished. Do you like it?

[Meridor] Your descriptions of constraints and princes are good for media headlines. I do not know who are the constraints men today. Some of them are in the Likud, others are outside it. I do not know who lost or gained power. I suggest that we leave this to the media. This government is faced with a very important task on the political and security levels that is comprised of two issues. One is agreed upon and obvious, meaning the war against those who make war on us: the intifadah rioters. We must wage an energetic war with initiative, insistence, and wisdom. The other is talks. Parallel to this war we must talk to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our relations with the United States are important. What is more important is what we do here. To reach the people who live in Bethlehem or Hebron, if we are intelligent, we need not go through Washington or Cairo.

[Friedman] How then do you interpret the remarks made last week by U.S. Secretary of State Baker? How should we react to them?

[Meridor] The secretary of state mentioned the White House phone number and suggested that people call it because he thinks this is how peace should be obtained. I do not remember that number, but I would like to say that the major problem regarding talks is not between us and the United States, it is in the telephone lines between the Arabs and us. I would like to suggest that the leaders of the Arab countries around us note down the following phone number in Jerusalem: 705-555, the Prime Minister's Office. The minute this line comes to life, the minute a call comes through it from an Arab capital, and the minute they ask for the prime minister, we will know that the peace process has a chance.

[Friedman] Without being too naive, I believe that the United States mediated between us and the Egyptian president in the peace agreement with Egypt. The United States is, after all, offering its good offices, while ultimately not seeing things eye to eye with us.

[Meridor] I am not rejecting offers of good offices from the United States. We must continue talking, and we can talk with the Americans. I believe that they know this government. They have the experience of dealing with Likud governments in the past. The Camp David agreements are not a result of a U.S. initiative, but rather an Israeli and Egyptian initiative. The Americans, however, later aided in achieving these agreements. On our own we can do more than we care to believe, both in terms of saying no when a negative reply is called for, and in terms of progressing in the positive direction of attempting to talk to the Arabs residing among us. It is in our hands, to no lesser extent, to at least offer such a process, honestly and seriously.

[Friedman] What, therefore, should we reply to Baker? Last week he announced that he is awaiting a reply. What should the Israeli Government tell him now?

[Meridor] To repeat, I am proposing not to minimize the whole issue to a single reply of one or two sentences. The question is much more complicated than that. The question is where are we going? We are faced with a U.S. Administration that promised us, in front of the whole world, that it would refrain from talking to the PLO if and when it became apparent that the PLO was engaging in terror. This happened, and PLO men were caught with blood on their hands; Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] just recently, other Fatah men in the Negev on Mount Harif some time ago. As the Americans put it, they were caught with the smoking gun in their hands. And we see that so far nothing has happened. So, the

question is not so much Israel's government and its policy. The question, to a large extent, is the reliability of U.S. promises. Do they mean what they say? How should we treat similar, or other U.S. promises in the future? This is a period of trial. I hope that relations between us and the Americans improve. One of the conditions for this to happen is maintaining the credibility of promises made by both sides.

[Friedman] Although you have claimed that this government is more homogeneous than the unity government that broke down, how long do you believe this newly-founded government will last?

[Meridor] I am no prophet. I hope that this government will do the right things in terms of immigrant absorption, defense, foreign policy, and economy, and that all its components realize how important it is to stick together and give up personal or sectional interests, for the sake of the state, to maintain the government. If this happens, it is very probable that it will remain in power until the end of the current Knesset term, in November 1992.

[Friedman] Nevertheless, some maintain that you wish to view this government as a mere way station to a unity government, or new elections under a new electoral system. Do you?

[Meridor] I am looking forward; the past is of lesser interest at the moment. Today we have this government; in its framework we should do all that can be done—and I am convinced that a lot can be done—to succeed in all our difficult tasks and challenges, in a situation that in many respects is not the easiest we have known in the past several years. That is why the issue of replacing the government is not on my mind at all. I believe we must guard it, maintain it as much as we can—I hope until its term is over—and at the same time do--and action is what is important now—all those things I have mentioned.

[Friedman] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you.

New Cabinet Opens, Holds Talks

TA1706105390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman outside the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] Good afternoon to you from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The first Cabinet session opened without any ceremony. When he toasted the new government, Prime Minister Shamir explained in no uncertain terms that he would not allow ministers to publicly criticize the government. He added that travel abroad for ministers would be approved only in emergency cases. Incidentally, that did not prevent the government today from approving the departure of Ministers Ne'eman, Olmert, Pat, and Milo, by a show of hands.

The Cabinet also approved the composition of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which will replace the Inner Cabinet. That committee will include all the Likud members who were on the outgoing Inner Cabinet, plus one representative from each coalition partner.

The composition of a new forum, the Inner Cabinet on Aliyah, was also approved. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked that this resolution be deferred until that forum's mandate is decided upon. Prime Minister Shamir ruled, however, that it will be set up and will decide for itself on its powers. This will subsequently be brought before the entire Cabinet plenum for endorsement.

The issue of deputy ministers was not broached, but the prime minister promised that the matter would be concluded in a month, perhaps even sooner.

The political issue, too, was not mentioned at all during the Cabinet session. Yet upon leaving the hall, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein explained that in his talks in Washington he never raised the issue of the inclusion of the deportees or East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] I only wish to say simply that we held general talks about how to promote the process, but that these talks were not specific for the simple reason that the Cabinet has just been formed. I left Israel immediately after the swearing-in ceremony of the new Cabinet, before it had a chance to discuss these matters in detail. That is why these issues were not discussed. [end recording]

As for the future of the political process, that will be decided upon in the near future in anticipation of Foreign Minister David Levi's departure for a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker in the United States.

Minister Ehud Olmert declared after the debate that responding to Baker is not the sole way to promote the political process:

[Begin Olmert recording] This Cabinet has declared its commitment to the two principles that have guided Israeli foreign policy for the past few years—the Camp David accords and the government's peace initiative.

As for the procedure of (?implementing) the peace process, this is something one can debate. It will not, however, disrupt relations with the United States. [end recording]

Further on the Cabinet session: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Ministers Magen, Refa'el Eytan, and Dan Meridor objected to the proposal that emergency regulations on guard duty in schools be extended. These regulations require that parents perform that duty. The ministers now called upon the security forces to guard the schools. Education Minister Zvulun Hammer promised that he will submit a new proposal in this spirit within three months.

The new Cabinet session ended without official ceremonies. Minister Refa'el Eytan drove alone in his private car to his ministry.

Incidentally, unlike the White House switchboard, the line in the Prime Minister's Office—705-555—mentioned by Minister Meridor in an IDF Radio interview, was not very busy, and Arab statesmen have not yet called.

Negative Response Denied

TA1706111690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Interview with Cabinet Secretary Eliyaqim Rubinstein by political correspondent Arye Golan "immediately after the weekly Cabinet session" in Jerusalem on 17 June—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Cabinet Secretary, in your Washington talks did you tell the Americans that Israel's answer to the Baker questions is negative?

[Rubinstein] My Washington talks were very general. I went to the United States at the invitation of the ADL [Anti-Defamation League] for a discussion on anti-Semitism. I was also in Washington for the war on drugs, in which we are trying to cooperate with the United States. Besides that, I held several diplomatic discussions linked to the peace process and associated issues, such as the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, relations between the Arab countries, etc. Nothing concrete was discussed, but I read all sorts of reports in the newspapers this morning and I do not know where they came from since they never happened. I would simply like to say that there were general talks on how to advance the process, but they were not detailed for the simple reason that the government has just been established. I left immediately after the swearing in of the government. It did not have time to discuss these issues in detail, and therefore they were not discussed.

[Golan] What you are saying is that you did not inform the Americans that Israel does not agree to incorporate deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation?

[Rubinstein] That did not crop up at all in the talks.

[Golan] Did the Americans ask you, or Israel, to bring new ideas if we refuse to respond affirmatively to Baker's questions?

[Rubinstein] I said what my talks involved in general terms. They were conducted with a large group of administration officials with whom we have had a working relationship for years, with the under secretary of state for political affairs; the head of political planning; the assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs; the assistant secretary for defense-political issues, or in other words, the person who deals with strategic cooperation; as well as others, such as congressmen and Jewish organizations. That is the broad picture, but I do not believe there is any need to go into details beyond that.

Milo Discusses Peace Process

TA1706064590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Telephone interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Good morning, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo. According to reports, Eliyaqim Rubinstein said in detail what you said in short a day or two earlier. You said on the Erev Hadash television program that Baker's questions are no longer relevant from Israel's viewpoint. Is that the Israeli Government's official position now?

[Milo] I believe we said very clearly that, after the establishment of the new government, we should start to seek a political move that could advance peace, but it must be conducted on a basis which can create a dialogue under conditions acceptable to both sides. I believe that the United States should conduct a dialogue with us, or encourage Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to conduct talks with us in order to make progress in the peace process, from that viewpoint. There is already a basis for this which we have supported for a long time, and that is the Camp David accords. I believe it can be done on that foundation.

[Friedman] I have still not heard a detailed answer to the question: Do the Baker questions no longer exist from Israel's viewpoint? Is it correct that Israel does not plan to give an affirmative response to them?

[Milo] Israel did not present those questions, therefore it cannot say whether or not they exist.

[Friedman] Israel has been asked to provide a detailed answer to them, either yes or no, but some kind of answer.

[Milo] Yes, but I believe that things have changed since the request for an answer was made. I believe that every country, and anybody dealing with diplomacy, must adapt conditions to developments. In my view, therefore, the United States and Israel will conduct a dialogue between friends in order to find ways to advance peace, and these will not necessarily be linked to previous processes which did not succeed.

[Dan] But you yourself said several days ago on Erev Hadash that the Baker questions are not relevant from the American viewpoint. That appears to be incorrect. In other words, Israel is now saying no to Baker, but what is it proposing instead? The Americans are saying: Present us with new initiatives in lieu of the Cairo meeting.

[Milo] I believe that I made a precise statement. Nothing has changed. I believe that when I made the remarks, and when the Cabinet secretary was in Washington, the Americans clearly understood that there is now a new government, a new situation, and new moves must be taken in order to advance the peace process. This government is interested in the peace process no less than the previous one. There are also basic guidelines which

say clearly that the previous government's peace initiative is valid, and we will continue to make progress and try to achieve peace in the region on that basis.

[Dan] Can you be more specific and provide us with an example of a new initiative Israel could propose?

[Milo] I believe it would be better to first present those initiatives to the United States when we begin talks. If some Arab element responds to our appeal, then we will of course hold talks with them and present them with proposals and initiatives. At this stage I do not believe it would be advisable to conduct the Israeli peace initiative via the telephone.

[Friedman] Yes that's so, despite what the secretary of state proposed. In his famous remarks several days ago in Washington, Baker said that, without a positive response to the questions he presented to Israel, there can be no dialogue and no peace in the Middle East. Can you, nevertheless, suggest an alternative path that includes dialogue, and also peace at the end of the path?

[Milo] I believe it is completely legitimate for there to be differences of opinion between us and the United States, or any other friend. That is not new; it has happened in the past. Nevertheless, despite the fact that there are differences, an understanding and a joint basis can be found for making progress in the peace process, in which we are interested. In the final analysis, U.S. and Israeli interests are not always identical. We are situated here in the region, we live here, we can take fewer risks than the United States might believe can be taken. So I do not believe that the differences, which are difficult to conceal, prevent the establishment of a joint basis for understanding through talks between the two countries, to make progress in the peace process, and perhaps more importantly, create the basis for talks with Palestinians residing in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to make progress toward peace.

[Friedman] Is any Palestinian living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip a partner for talks under the new proposal in the new Israeli Government's initiative, which could be understood to exist from your remarks?

[Milo] I believe that the Israeli Government's position on that issue has been around for a long time. According to the Camp David accords we are interested in and ready to hold a dialogue with the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria in a defined process which already exists in the Camp David accords. The process is also mentioned in the government's recent peace initiative, and I believe that is the path to maintain Israel's security, and possibly to lead to peace.

[Friedman] In the Camp David accords no Palestinian from Judaea and Samaria is ruled out. The previous Israeli Government, at least the majority in it, ruled out deportees and residents of East Jerusalem. Is that disqualification still relevant?

[Milo] The Camp David accords say that we will talk to the Arabs living in Judaea and Samaria. The disqualification does not refer to them. That is also the situation now. When you refer to deportees you are not talking about Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. That is also the case when referring to Jerusalem Arabs. Jerusalem is part of the State of Israel, it is not part of the territories defined as Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Shamir Reiterates 'Terrorist' Nature of PLO

TA1806120890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Report by Sheli Yehimovich on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "ongoing" address to high school students in Petah Tiqva]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's speech has so far been very categorical and unequivocal. Although he has made similar statements before, the prime minister today sounded more unambiguous than ever in his denunciation of any talks whatsoever with the PLO or with people identified with the PLO, and he mentioned the United States in the same breath. He said: The PLO has defrauded the United States. The PLO is a terror organization that seeks our destruction. If anyone thought the PLO had changed and that the time had come to make peace, they were seriously disappointed in the wake of the aborted terror operation on Shabuoth. The prime minister specifically said: The PLO defrauded the United States and us [as heard]. The aborted terror operation on Shabuoth was a slap in the face.

The prime minister elaborated at length on the operation, including technical details. He noted that it had taken the terrorists three years to plan it. When we caught them, Shamir said, we were sure the United States would realize that this is definitely a terror organization, but we were proven wrong.

[Begin Shamir recording] When we caught them and supplied the evidence, we were sure that no one in the United States would dare tell us that this time, too, they had doubts. So, what are we witnessing now? Weeks go by, and political offices in the United States are still holding consultations on whether the PLO is indeed a terror organization. They cannot make up their minds about the need to prove the credibility of the United States, to prove to the entire world that there can be no negotiations with those who resort to terror. [end recording]

The prime minister also said he was surprised at the patience evinced by the United States in the deliberations with those assassins, as he called them. The United States wants to ask 'Arafat to continue to lie to it—this is what he said about the United States. [passage omitted]

Asked by a student whether assimilating Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza into Israel would not spell the end of the Zionist dream and lead to an Arab majority in Eretz Yisra'el, the prime minister replied: It is heartbreaking

that we have such a small country, but this has been decreed by history. Fifty years ago we were a tiny minority in Petah Tiqva, too.

Referring to aliyah, Shamir said: The Arabs have declared war on aliyah. What do they want from us? All the Arabs, ranging from Husayn to the PLO, both moderates and hard-liners, are fighting Jewish immigration, but we know no cause is more just than the salvation of our brothers who are returning to their homeland. [passage omitted]

[Reporting on the same speech, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 18 June adds a recorded passage in which Shamir, addressing himself to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, says: If he seriously wants to discuss peace with Israel, we invite him to come here, talk, and negotiate, and perhaps we may reach peace.]

No New Conditions Imposed for Palestinian Dialogue

TA1706050690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem said that the prime minister has not imposed any new conditions for a dialogue with the Palestinians. They said that Mr. Shamir has proposed in the past that Israel negotiate only with Palestinians who agree to the framework for discussions Israel suggests.

The sources told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Secretary of State Baker's remarks that Israel is imposing new conditions for a dialogue are only an excuse. His remarks are aimed at diverting attention from the U.S. Administration's failure to decide to cease the dialogue with the PLO following the attempted attack on the beaches [on 30 May].

The Jerusalem sources said that everybody is now dealing with Washington-Jerusalem relations instead of PLO terror.

Twelve Knesset members [MK's], six from the Alignment and six from the Likud, are calling on the Washington administration to end the dialogue with the PLO. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the 12 will meet this week with the U.S. ambassador in Israel to transmit their request to him. The initiator of the appeal, [Likud MK] Tzahi Hanegbi, said that he is satisfied with six MK's from each side to prove that there is unity on this issue.

Shamir, Arens Seek Dialogue With Palestinians

TA1706124390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 p2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, ITIM, and REUTER]

[Excerpt] The prime minister and the defense minister intend to hold meetings with Palestinians in the territories soon to get a first-hand impression of the opinion of the residents and to see about the possibility of holding a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, based on the government's peace initiative. The meetings, probably to be held in secret, are meant to signal to the United States and the residents of the territories that the new government intends to continue the peace process.

It is estimated by senior political echelons in Jerusalem that Israel will have to propose political initiatives, including the improvement of the Israeli plan, in order to restore Israeli-U.S. relations. Senior political sources have said that the decision to gradually reopen the universities in the territories is part of the effort to calm tempers and create an opportunity for an Israeli- Palestinian dialogue.

The Defense Ministry has closely monitored the U.S. Administration's discontent that followed Minister Arens' visit to Ari'el [in the West Bank] soon after being appointed defense minister, without paying a visit to Arab settlements in the territories. HADASHOT has learned that, according to the original itinerary, Arens was supposed to visit the Jewish enclave in Hebron, but his visit there was cancelled at the last moment. [passage omitted]

Levi Discusses Steps To Resume Egyptian Dialogue

TA1706121690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today held a meeting in his room at Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula with Professor Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Egypt. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Re'uven Merhav, Foreign Ministry director general, and Uri Oren, the minister's adviser, also participated. They discussed relations with Egypt and the steps to be taken to resume the dialogue between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Levi told Ambassador Shamir that he regards an atmosphere of trust between Israel and Egypt as highly important. Shim'on Shamir returns to Cairo tonight.

Journalist on Shamir Remarks on Al-Asad, PLO

TA1806064390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Interview with Khamis Abu-al-'Afiya, MAYU correspondent in Israel, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor, on an interview Abu-al-'Afiya conducted with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the latter's office in Jerusalem on 15 June, scheduled to be published in MAYU's 18 June edition—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] What was your impression? What was the main message Mr. Shamir sought to convey to MAYU readers in Egypt in particular and, as I see it, to the Arab world in general?

[Abu-al-'Afiya] Mr. Shamir highlighted several important points. I mentioned that the Syrian president had made what is also regarded by political observers as a very rare declaration. When I asked Shamir whether he could tell the Syrian president that he is welcome to

come to Israel, he said: I am prepared to say welcome to the Syrian president and to any Arab country, without preconditions. I would like to point out that the prime minister stressed the words: without preconditions.

I asked him another question: Can the prime minister see himself sitting with the PLO leader at some stage? The prime minister responded with a categorical no. I said: Despite the fact that the PLO leader has recognized UN Resolutions 181, 242, and 338? Shamir replied: There is a difference between what the PLO says and what it does. More specifically, the prime minister continued, the attempted terror attack on Shavuot. I asked him: What should 'Arafat do in order to be given an audience with Shamir? To this he replied: He should disband the PLO.

I must point out that Mr. Shamir praised the Egyptian president and said he hoped there would be fruitful cooperation between the two of them.

Of course, I asked him many other questions. I asked him: Who are you prepared to talk to on the Palestinian side? His reply: Elected representatives. I said: Mr. Prime Minister, do you not think it would be better to shorten the process? Instead of speaking with representatives who have no authority to make decisions, why not speak directly to the leaders of the Palestinians and solve the problem? His reply: Israel will only speak to the elected representatives. He said he is not prepared to talk either with the PLO or with terror organizations.

[Mardor] Khamis, do you feel the interview was conducted in a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere? Were there any difficult moments or instances in which the prime minister may have been upset by some of your questions?

[Abu-al-'Afiya] No, he was not upset by any question.

[Friedman] He welcomed you with all due respect, right?

[Abu-al-'Afiya] I believe I also proceeded delicately. What can I tell you? I hope he will manage to persuade the Egyptian reader. I conveyed his remarks literally. I tried very hard to quote him word for word, because I know that any misplaced word can cause a lot of trouble. [passage omitted]

Arens on Quelling Intifadah, Talks With Arabs

TA1706173190 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dani Levi on the "Meeting" program; date and place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from Hebrew]

[Text] [Levi] Mr. Minister, residents of the territories are now tensely waiting to see what policy you will follow. Will you pursue a policy focussing on reducing violence in the territories to a minimum?

[Arens] As the defense minister, I am responsible for the safety of the State of Israel and, more specifically, for the safety and well-being of the population of the territories, both Israeli and Palestinian. In my opinion, there is room for considerable improvement where quiet and security among both Jews and Arabs is concerned. To that end, we will considerably decrease—to the extent possible—the number of terrorist attacks, of casualties, of victims of this violence. I believe this goal should be shared by us all—Jews and Arabs alike. As the defense minister, it is my goal to bring about a reduction—or an elimination, if possible—of the incidence of violent events.

[Levi] Does this imply that, in a bid to reduce violence to a minimum, you will change the policy hitherto applied in the territories from the point of view of ways and means?

[Arens] At this stage, I do not wish to make any declarations. I only assumed my duties last week, and I would like to see more of the territories, to talk with Arabs and with Jews. I attach great significance to dialogue. There may be room for improvement in the level and scope of dialogue between me, as the defense minister, and the Palestinian population of the territories, in a bid to share the task of seeking a basis for consent. I know that that basis is limited, that we disagree on many things, and that achieving an agreement on these things will take a long time. It is clear to me, however, that agreement on certain issues—on everything connected with the population's well-being—is within our reach. I believe most of the population will agree that violence does not pay, does not achieve any end, and only causes suffering and casualties.

[Levi] Mr. Minister, these residents fear that the so-called iron fist will be used to quell violence in the territories, which you have mentioned. Does their fear have any grounds?

[Arens] As I said, I do not wish to declare at this time what methods we will resort to. The term iron fist is not agreeable, and this is certainly not something I would like to resort to, because the image that springs to mind is of casualties, of people who will get hurt. The goal I have set myself is to cause as few people as possible to be hurt—Jews as well as Arabs.

[Levi] Do you believe, sir, that it is possible to eradicate the violence in the territories?

[Arens] I would only like to believe in everybody's brains and common sense. It seems to me that, after the long period of nearly three years of violence and of our coping with this violence, both brains and common sense indicate that violence promotes the goals of no one—and it is certainly incapable of propelling us toward an accord between the State of Israel and the Palestinian population.

[Levi] Mr. Minister, the recent reopening of the territories' universities was understood by the population as an appeasing move. Do you intend to carry out more similar moves to calm the area?

[Arens] I would like to bring about a normal life in which people feel safe. The universities had been closed after the Army realized that their campuses had become foci of violence. Presented with the difficult choice of cutting the studies short—which is not a positive step at all—or of reducing the violence which emanated from sites in which studies were supposed to be held, the Army opted for closing the universities and reducing the level of violence. The Defense Ministry has reached the conclusion that, as a system, the move was effective in that it reduced the level of violence. Again, I hope that with the experience accumulated by the Palestinian population, the students, and the university directors, we will now be able to see life return to normal so that students can study without causing a rise in the level of violence. We will closely monitor developments in this sphere, and if it transpires that the gradual reopening of universities has not increased the level of violence, we will wish all the universities to stay open.

[Levi] Mr. Minister, you stated more than once that you intend to confer with notables in the territories in order to promote the peace process. Do you plan to do so in the near future?

[Arens] I plan to do so as soon as possible. I believe that dialogue is both beneficial and important. A dialogue in which both parties agree requires no great skills; you and I can do it at any time. It is more difficult to talk with elements with whom you disagree—and it is on these occasions that the dialogue is important.

[Levi] Does that include persons associated with the PLO?

[Arens] I do not wish to define categories at this time. I would like, however, to talk with the Palestinian population in the territories; I wish to talk with representatives of the Palestinian population of the territories.

[Levi] On the basis of the government's peace initiative?

[Arens] Of course on the basis of the government's peace initiative. What is important here, however, is the dialogue itself. I would like to hope that in the process of this dialogue, we will be able to find a basis for understanding and locate boundaries of consent, thereby promoting issues important to us and the Palestinian population.

[Levi] Do you believe a basis for understanding with these notables can be found without connection with the PLO?

[Arens] I am convinced of that. I regard the PLO as the main obstacle on the path to peace; as an element that is not interested in encouraging local leadership; an element not interested in promoting the Israeli peace initiative; an element inciting violence in the territories; an element which pursues the path of terror. I believe a majority of the Palestinian population in the territories knows that violence and terror do not promote their cause.

[Levi] Mr. Minister, in a not-so-distant past, a similar initiative was taken—and failed. What guarantee do you have that it will do better this time?

[Arens] There are no guarantees. If the Palestinian population and its representatives do not show willingness to help calm the area and reduce the level of violence, to bring about a dialogue and to try to attain accord, we will be able to make no progress in this sphere. In such a case, we will be reduced to continuing our confrontation with violence—and, as we have already proved, we can do it. I would like to point out that we do not want to do it; what we want is to seek alternative ways.

Meridor Discusses Peace Initiative, Arab Dialogue

TA1606095990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Raz] Can this government deal with our problems? It has been several days since the quite grave remarks of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It seems that there is a very deep fissure in U.S.-Israeli relations.

[Meridor] This government can deal with the problems. I will say even more than that: In the previous government we tried to take a certain path agreed on by the Likud and the Alignment, the major part of which was the peace initiative of 14 May 1989. At that time there was interference in our contacts with the Arab countries, the Arabs, the Americans, and others. There was interference because Israel spoke in two voices. There were those in the government who told the other side that the allegedly stern views of the government must not always be taken at face value; there are better Jews. That is no way to conduct any form of negotiations.

The government today speaks in a single voice. If it takes the right path—which I believe it will—it stands a greater chance and has more capability than any government, even a unity government, speaking in two voices, in which one voice is always trying to bring it down.

[Raz] Nevertheless, it seems that even today it does not have a single voice. As early as last week we heard voices from within the coalition, some of them firm, against the invitation extended to the UN under secretary general to visit the territories.

[Meridor] Naturally, among the 62 who voted in the Knesset in favor of this government—and I hope the number will yet grow—there are different views on different issues. All of them, however, have undertaken the government guidelines which, politically, include the Camp David agreements and the aforementioned peace initiative. Those who accepted the guidelines are still entitled to make remarks, express reservations on one act and support another, but they are committed to the main guideline.

[Raz] How can the peace initiative be promoted? You have sided with those who favor replying to Baker in the affirmative. You are in favor of the peace initiative of May 1989.

[Meridor] I believe we have to do two things in parallel. One: We must fight the rioting Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip firmly stubbornly, toughly, wisely, and with fresh initiative. We must conduct a good and successful campaign to protect the lives of both Jews and Arabs in this country. This is the government's first obligation, and it should do it without hesitation and with new ideas every day. We must prevent incidents where Jews in Jerusalem's neighborhoods, or elsewhere, are stabbed with knives.

At the same time we must talk to the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We have been the rulers of these areas for the past 23 years. The Arabs there do not know any other regime. We need not change our stands; we need not make any ideological concessions. It is people like me—who believe that we will not withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and that we will stay in these territories—who must find some form of modus vivendi with the Arabs.

[Raz] Meaning that you would support holding the Cairo meeting, and soon?

[Meridor] I am in favor of this, I have always been. I continue to believe that we can and should hold talks and discussions—secret or public, through various means—with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. As far as I am concerned, talks can be held even in Jerusalem, or anywhere else. They do not have to be held in Cairo. It is important that a dialogue be held, although not in order to obtain a comprehensive peace agreement. I do not think such an agreement can be reached with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip alone; the war against us is being waged by the whole Arab world. Nonetheless, in order to reach an interim arrangement on the type of the autonomy, based on the Israeli peace plan of 14 May 1989, there is no need to always first talk to Washington so that it can talk to Egypt. Egypt will then in turn, to our regret, talk to the PLO, or the PLO will hear it directly from Washington. There is no need for this in order to try to influence the Arabs who reside some 50 or 100 or 1,000 meters away from us; we are here.

[Raz] What you are suggesting is, in fact, to withdraw from the Baker initiative, or is this my impression?

[Meridor] No. I am not suggesting a withdrawal, nor am I proposing to advance. I am proposing that we see the main issue, which to me is talks with the Arabs that are here. [passage omitted]

IDF Says Arens May Renew Deportation Orders

TA1706125590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 p 7

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens participated in the weekly "territories' forum" discussion over the weekend, in which the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands, Civil Administration heads, and representatives of the Shin Bet took part. Arens heard reports from the field and did not order any new steps or policies to be adopted, but IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources expect him to order moves which will get the intifadah off the agenda. The minister is convening a private territories' forum in his office today.

The defense minister asked Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, to remain in his post. Goren, appointed by Arens himself seven years ago based on recommendations and not personal acquaintance, has come under criticism lately, especially from settlers, for implementing the Defense Ministry's policy, which among other things calls for a settlement freeze. Arens' request to Goren to remain in his post is seen as a vote of confidence in the coordinator.

IDF sources believe that the new defense minister will not take far-reaching steps, but he is expected to try to mobilize a large number of soldiers in the territories at the expense of other activities, while at the same time emphasizing special activities against specific targets. It is possible that deportation orders against uprising leaders might be renewed.

The IDF stresses that all these activities will call for a large financial outlay in the future also. The defense establishment has so far not been compensated for the expenditures during the intifadah, which was one of the reasons for the damage caused to various IDF plans over the past two years.

Sharon, Peretz Confer on Immigrant Housing

TA1706192990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz will work together to change the government's decision to build two thirds of all new apartments in central Israel. The two ministers decided upon this during their first meeting today. In the course of today's meeting, the two men also formulated the work procedures of the Inner Cabinet on Aliyah, which is to be headed by Minister Sharon.

Minister Peretz is due to leave for Budapest tomorrow morning on a three-day visit. During his stay there he will examine the transit routes of Soviet immigrants.

Popper Charged With Murder in Rishon Killings

TA1806111590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Report by 'Ido Baum]

[Text] 'Ami Popper has been charged with the premeditated murder of seven Arab laborers on 20 May at the Gan Havradim junction in Rishon Leziyyon. He has also

been charged with intent to kill 10 other laborers at the site. Nurit Schnit, the Central District prosecutor, has asked that 21-year-old Popper be held in detention until the end of legal proceedings against him. In her detention request, the district attorney claims that she has numerous pieces of evidence to prove the charges against 'Ami Popper. Among other things, the prosecution has Popper's confession, eyewitness testimony, and laboratory test results.

The indictment was presented this morning, after the five psychiatrists who examined Popper at Abarbanel Hospital found him fit to stand trial. The hearing on the request to extend Popper's detention will be held tomorrow morning.

Beijing Office Denies Weapons, Technology Deals

TA1706103090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 pp 1, 6

[Report from Britain by Dafna Vardi and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Agronomist Dr. Yosef Shalhevet, the head of the Israeli delegation in the PRC, has denied allegations that his office serves as a cover for arms dealing, saying: We are not here to sell anything. Our presence here is intended, as the Chinese put it, to establish person-to-person relations. We do not represent the government.

At the same time, Dr. Shalhevet did not deny the fact that Israel is hoping to set up a diplomatic representation in China.

The PLO representation in the PRC has complained to the authorities about the opening of the representation of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Beijing. The Chinese explained that it is not a political representation, but rather a scientific one, reported Professor Shalhevet.

He noted there is no connection between the representation and reports in the United States that Israel, rather than the United States, is supplying advanced military technology to the PRC.

Reacting to a report in the British THE INDEPENDENT, security sources said yesterday that the Israeli representation in Beijing operates as an academic office, as the two countries' foreign ministers had agreed.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 17 June, in a page 1 report from New York by Miryam Fuchs and from Britain by Yaqir Tzur, reports: In New York yesterday, Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed that Israel has sold secret Lavi technology to the PRC, and engages in weapons deals with that country. He noted, in his meetings with leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Anti-Defamation League, that "the United States knew about the contacts with the PRC and did not object to them." He also noted that he has no knowledge about "contacts between senior Israeli security elements and the director of a Los Angeles-based computer firm toward the illegal sale of advanced Star Wars technology."]

Rabin Denies Technology Transfer

TA1806114990 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jun 90 p 2

["Exclusive" report by New York correspondent Miryam Fuchs and military affairs correspondent On Levi]

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin said to DAVAR yesterday: All the transactions between Israel and the PRC take place within the framework of the law. Rabin, who is currently in the United States as a guest of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, said: Everything pertaining to our contacts with the PRC was reported to the U.S. Government. He added that nothing was conducted outside the law and that Israel operates within the framework of U.S. law.

Rabin admitted that arms transactions with the PRC had taken place, but contrary to what was published yesterday, Lavi fighter jet technology was not included in these deals. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service at 1100 GMT on 18 June adds: MK Yitzhaq described as hogwash reports that while in the United States, he publicly claimed that Israel had transferred technological know-how to the PRC. Upon his return to Israel, Rabin said that in a closed meeting with the heads of the Anti-Defamation League, he had made it clear that Israel is careful not to transfer U.S. weapons or technology to a third country without the administration's knowledge and approval. He denied making any public statements on the matter.]

Soviet Article Sign of Debate on Middle East

TA1706151290 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 P 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] Political circles have accorded importance to an article published by the official Soviet newspaper "IZVESTIYA," in which the writer attempts to convince his readers that the Soviet Union should stop delivering arms to Syria. [passage omitted]

These circles expressed the opinion that this article highlights the differences of opinion in the Soviet approach to Middle Eastern affairs, as the Soviet line regarding the Middle East has not been changed despite the political upheaval which has taken place in the Soviet Union as far as the cold war in Europe is concerned.

Science Minister Meets FRG Counterpart 15 Jun

TA1706152890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 p A6

[Report by science affairs correspondent Mikha'el Gerti]

[Excerpt] Dr. Riesenhuber, the West German research and technology minister, met with Dr. Yuval Ne'eman, the minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, in Frankfurt on 15 June. The two men discussed the fields of scientific cooperation between the FRG and Israel.

Ne'eman arrived in West Germany on 14 June to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Clausthal.

Tests Show Levi Had 'Light' Heart Attack

TA1606132990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] It has now been determined that Foreign Minister David Levi suffered a light heart attack. This was the result of the medical tests he underwent over the last two days at Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula.

Dr. Ehud Kantor, deputy director of the hospital, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Minister Levi is now feeling well. The doctor said that Mr. Levi had been asked to stay in the hospital until the end of the week for continued observation.

Al-Birah Nursing School Reopens in Territories

TA1606111690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] This morning studies resumed at the al-Birah nursing school belonging to the al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this is the first university where studies have resumed since the beginning of the intifadah. Of the 250 students who registered for classes, some 200 students attended the first day of school, and studies were uninterrupted.

In a meeting last week between the coordinator of government operations in the territories, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, and the college administration, it was made clear that the way classes are conducted will serve as a test case for the renewal of studies in the rest of the universities.

This morning a curfew was imposed on the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood in Gaza. Life in other parts of the Gaza Strip goes on as normal.

First Group of Pilgrims Leaves for Mecca

TA1806105590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Over 1,000 Muslim pilgrims crossed the Allenby Bridge this morning en route to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to fulfill the religious duty of hajj and take part in the rituals of 'Id al-Adha. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld notes that this is the first group of the 3,500 Muslims who will leave for Mecca within the next few days. The applications of another 2,800 Muslims were rejected by the Saudi and Jordanian authorities.

The pilgrims will be on the road for some 72 hours and, for the first time, they will be accompanied by teams of physicians and nurses, following incidents in past years in which some pilgrims were taken ill as a result of the hardships of the journey.

Deputy Defense Minister Slot To Be Left Vacant

TA1706123590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 p 3

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens plans to open an office again in Jerusalem in addition to his office in the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

The office will be located in the al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem, and along with the office serving the defense minister in the Knesset building, will be used by the defense minister and his office workers when they are in Jerusalem.

During the weekend, it was finally made clear that there will be no deputy defense minister. Minister Arens agreed with the prime minister that, because Binyamin Netanyahu has agreed to continue serving as deputy foreign minister, this post will be left vacant at the defense ministry. That means that all the duties held by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri up until now will remain unchanged.

Defense Ministry sources said that Salay Meridor, the defense minister's previous assistant, will serve as his political adviser, a post that did not exist previously. Minister Arens plans to ask Meridor to handle the ministry's political affairs, such as issues linked to the United States and Egypt, and ties with foreigners, as well as civilian issues.

Editorial Claims Coalition Will Soon Collapse

TA1706174490 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 90 P 7

[Editorial: "We Must Organize Ourselves for Early Elections"]

[Text] The right-wing government began its tenure on its left foot, perhaps with two left feet. Shamir's declaration in THE JERUSALEM POST, by which he contradicted his own peace plan by presenting two new conditions, caused an angry clamor in Washington and led to a tough statement by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The terse reactions from the Prime Minister's Office and from the Foreign Ministry are nothing but hypocrisy. The directors of these offices complain that Baker is conducting his contacts with them in public and not through the accepted diplomatic channels, but they ignore the fact that Baker himself received the negative Israeli response to his plan through the media. Therefore, the Prime Minister's Office must stop playing the

innocent, as the lack of communication through diplomatic channels is not typical of the United States, and its origin can rather be traced to Israel.

As a matter of fact, the Shamir government has brought relations with the United States to a virtual rupture. The rift is not yet complete, but it is close. Practically speaking, Baker has left the Israeli Government with only one choice: To seriously respond to the questions pertaining to the furthering of the peace process. However, the existing government is not capable of positively confronting the peace plan. There is no hope for negotiations to begin as long as Israel issues ultimatums that the other side accept the Israeli plan in advance, and negotiations stand no chance if the government attempts to dictate the personal composition of the delegation which is made up of residents of the territories. In effect, Shamir is suggesting that we conduct negotiations among ourselves. It is clear that no second party will agree to be a partner to discussions founded on such a narrow basis. The incumbent government's policy threatens, for the first time in many years, to elicit the leveling of sanctions against Israel by the United States, the EEC, and by the Soviet Union. The United States is withholding $400 million worth of assistance in immigrant absorption. The European Parliament has recommended that the European Community's governments impose sanctions on Israel, similar to those imposed on South Africa, and the Soviet Union is examining the possibility of halting immigration to Israel and redirecting it, together with the United States, to other destinations.

The Shamir government has no plan as to how to rehabilitate our international relations, it cannot guarantee continued immigration from the Soviet Union, and it does not have the ability to maintain a stable economy, not to mention the resumption of economic growth. Therefore it is hard to imagine that this government, with its inherent contradictions, will survive for very long. This government, which can only effect a crisis in Israel's relations with the world as well as in Israel's security and economic situation, will bring about its own ruin, and quickly. Therefore, there is no choice but for the sane forces, who stand in opposition to the government's policies, to organize and ready themselves for early elections.

Authorities Arrest Five Islamic Jihad Members

JN1706161890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] A member of the Islamic Jihad Organization-Bayt al-Maqdis said in Amman today that the Jordanian security authorities yesterday arrested five of the organization's members, including two sons of Islamic Jihad leader Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, who is currently outside Jordan.

Weapons Also Seized

JN1706194890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have arrested five members of the Islamic Jihad Organization-Bayt al-Maqdis, including two sons of Islamic Jihad leader Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, who resides in Amman. This was learned from sources close to that organization.

An official Jordanian source confirmed the arrests, pointing out that parts of weapons were seized with the detainees. He did not specify the type or quantity of the weapons, nor did he disclose the motives of the arrests but pointed out that investigations of the detainees are under way.

The arrests took place while Shaykh al-Tamimi, who considers himself the spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis, was paying a visit to Libya at the invitation of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Parliament Approves Conscription Law Amendment

JN1606195790 Amman Television Service in English 1845 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The Parliament today approved an amendment to the conscription law exempting Jordanian expatriates from military service if they pay a certain ammount to be decided by the Cabinet. Jordanian employees in public and diplomatic bodies outside Jordan are not included.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the session that Jordan expatriates or their sons eligible for conscription are estimated at 40,000. He said many of them have not visited Jordan for years because of the military service. The prime minister said the government would set $10,000 as the amount for the exemption to be paid for the treasury. The Parliament later resumed a debate of the Court of Justice bill.

Paper Responds to Cheney Remarks on Arms

JN1706141190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jun pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Peace and Arms"]

[Text] The U.S. defense secretary told half the truth when he told a Jewish group in the United States that arms alone do not make peace. The other half of the truth, which he chose to ignore, is that when arms abound for the aggressors they become a pickax for destroying the prospects of peace. They also become a tool for perpetrating mass crimes, as is the case in the occupied territories.

No doubt the U.S. Administration is aware of both sides of the truth. Yet the U.S. secretary confirms that the United States will continue to give military support to Israel and will amount up to 35 percent of total U.S. foreign military support by 1991! This means that the United States' continued military support for Israel is bound to be accompanied by more Israeli intransigence and a diminishing of peace prospects in the region. Moreover, the flow of arms to the Israeli aggressors will encourage them to engage in more reckless adventures which could lead to very bad consequences.

Thus, the dangerous and negative role played by American weapons becomes evident. Therefore, it becomes clear that U.S. policy on Middle East peace is designed to isolate the region from peace. In fact, it could be exposing the region to unpredictable dangers that would be difficult to contain when they occur.

The U.S. defense secretary's call on Israel to start talks with the Arabs is akin to throwing dust in people's eyes, because he and other U.S. officials know only too well that Israel is not interested in peace. Israel's only concern is to expand and establish Greater Israel. What Israel wants is to obtain more arms which would enable it to keep the occupied territories and fulfill its expansionist dreams. Here is the U.S. secretary assuring Israel that Washington is ready to continue providing advanced weapons. What kind of peace is he calling for? How will Israel be convinced about the need for peace talks while arms are pouring into its military arsenal, thus developing its capability and encouraging it to hold tenaciously to the aggression option!

The U.S. defense secretary's remark is the kind of lip service that Washington is master of. It clearly indicates that the United States is determined to provide the Israeli aggressors with arms, just as it is determined to proceed with a negative policy toward the Arabs, a policy that does not go beyond making peace promises.

Paper Sees U.S. Retreating on Israel Criticism

JN1806051090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Fairness, credibility and volte-faces"]

[Text] The backing-down by the U.S. administration on the blunt criticism that Secretary of State James Baker directed at the new Israeli government the other day reinforces the long-held Arab view that Washington cannot possibly be serious in implementing a fair and balanced policy in the Middle East. Even when Israel is

wrong, and the Americans know it, the U.S. cannot throw a slap at the Israelis and make it stick for more than 24 hours.

"Israel is a strong ally of the U.S. They're going to continue to be one, a staunch friend. We will not change that policy one iota," the State Department spokeswoman quotes Baker as telling her, hardly a day after the secretary says to the world that Israel was making it impossible for the Palestinians to negotiate on fair conditions. Then goes on the air Richard Cheney who extols the infinite value of the Israelis, exactly at the same time as Baker is dressing them down for their obstinacy. No matter what Israel does, and however the world is changing, the defence secretary says, the Jewish state will continue "to get 35 per cent of the administration's fiscal 1991 budget request for security assistance. Israel is due to begin taking delivery on its third order of F-16 aircraft in 1991. We also expect the Israeli defence forces to be getting the first Apache attack helicopters soon, and we are funding a portion of Israel's naval modernisation programme.... And that's just a sample of what we're doing."

It is not that the Arab World expects the U.S. to stop its strategic alliance and eternal friendship with the Israelis. Rather, it is fairness and objectivity that we have been seeking, but not getting, from successive U.S. administrations.

Fair play, balance and objectivity are supposed to be perennial hallmarks of American politics when it comes to areas and issues East and West, big and small. But not in the Middle East. Where is the fairness in equating PLO condemnation of the aborted seashore operation with the demand from Israel to talk with the Palestinians? Which objectivity is that which asks the oppressed to give in to the diktats of the oppressor? And the occupied to accept the rule of the occupier? Baker said it right the day he levelled criticism at the Israelis. What happened to his convictions and expressed beliefs 24 hours later? Did the world change that much in that short period? Or is it the wrath of an extremist government that he feared to incur if he insisted on keeping a principled position?

The view strongly held by some Arabs that the U.S. is a prisoner of Israeli politics, no matter what happens, is daily growing more convincing to more and more Arabs. With more of the same from the U.S., there will come a time when nothing in the world can salvage America's credibility and reputation.

PRC Defense Minister Ends Visit, Departs

JN1406185490 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] General Qin Jiwei, PRC defense minister, and his delegation left Amman at noon today, concluding a visit of several days to Jordan, during which he met with his majesty the supreme commander [of the Armed Forces] and the chief of staff. He also visited a number of military positions and cultural attractions in the kingdom. On hand to see him off at Queen Alia International Airport were Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib, his assistant for intelligence, and the Jordanian Air Force commander, as well as the PRC ambassador in Amman.

AL-SAFIR Outlines Papal Nuncio Plan

Proposed Ministers Named

NC1606075390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Today AL-SAFIR published the outlines of a working plan which Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente carried with him to Lebanese officials. The plan includes the following proposals:

First: To form an expanded national accord government of six state ministers, including Michel 'Awn; to appoint General 'Awn as deputy prime minister and minister of state and to appoint a Greek Orthodox as second deputy prime minister; to appoint Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt as state ministers and to determine Samir Ja'ja's status after consultations; and to name 20 technocrat ministers who are to be entrusted with traditional ministerial tasks.

Second: To return the al-Ta'if agreement and the constitutional reform draft, which are entrusted to the Chamber of Deputies, to the Council of Ministers and to reconsider it within the framework of the expanded government.

Al-Hirawi Rejects Plan

NC1606143090 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut, June 16 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has rejected a Vatican proposal aimed at revising an Arab plan that paved the way for his election in November, a source in his administration said Saturday.

The source said "a pre-condition to any solution to the Lebanese conflict is that all parties publicly approve the al-Ta'if accord," a political reform package endorsed by Lebanese MPs in Saudi Arabia in October.

He said this position, held by Mr. al-Hirawi and other top officials, would be conveyed to the papal nuncio, Monsignor Pablo Puente, who was in Muslim West Beirut this week to discuss Vatican proposals for a Lebanon settlement.

According to the source, the Vatican has proposed a new national unity government that would include Christian military leader Michel 'Awn and would be charged with re-evaluating the accord reached in the Saudi resort of al-Ta'if.

Msgr. Puente secured a cease-fire May 26 in five months of fierce fighting east and north of here between General 'Awn's troops and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia. The truce has held despite several isolated violations.

President al-Hirawi, elected by parliament under the al-Ta'if accord, has been unable to extend his authority to the embattled Christian areas.

Gen. 'Awn rejected the al-Ta'if accord—sponsored by an Arab League committee grouping Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia—for failing to call for the withdrawal of some 35,000 Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon.

Algeria's ambassador to Lebanon, Lakhdar Belaid, told reporters that the nuncio's initiative contained positive elements but that some points required further discussion.

President Discusses Al-Ta'if, Outlook for Future

PM1506134790 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Jun 90 pp 17-21

[Interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Muhammad B'albaki and Milhim Karam, who accompanied him on his visits to Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia, "at the end of the tour"; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Karam] Mr. President, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss said today that to ask "are you optimistic or pessimistic" would be an emotional approach and that the question should be "are you hopeful or have you given up hope?" Where does Lebanon stand between hope and despair with you as its leader?

[Al-Hirawi] My answer to that good question is this: For many reasons and for the first time in Lebanon's history, the Lebanese agreed among themselves in al-Ta'if on a new formula which could be implemented. It may not be the ideal formula that fulfills the aspirations of all the Lebanese people, but it is a sound formula for beginning the establishment of peace in Lebanon. It is a document of national accord. That is why the discussions continued for 24 days and nights, and I stress the word nights because I was up every night until dawn working on that issue. [passage omitted]

Lebanon would not be able to stand on its own feet or move forward if we lost our balance. That is why, when I attended the first cabinet meeting, I followed through the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement, although to this day we cannot say that the constitutional implementation of the agreement has begun. The cabinet now holds weekly meetings, and the sessions may last a long time, but that is for the purpose of discussion and exchange of views. In the end, decisions are made without uproar and without allegations of differences and the postponement of sessions.

Furthermore, the al-Ta'if agreement must be implemented. That is why the cabinet has approved the constitutional amendments and sent them to the chamber of deputies. As regards the other projects, they are development projects and administrative reform plans which could be introduced through draft laws, not constitutional amendments, because they do not come from heaven. They are neither the Bible nor the Koran, and they could be amended in accordance with the developments of our times. Even our Constitution—what is wrong with amending it? Some people have taken a position and said the Constitution should not be touched. I recall eloquent colleagues saying that the

Constitution should not be touched. What state would insist on keeping the same constitution for ever? Constitutions develop with the development of time. I personally wish that sectarianism could be put aside, leaving religion to God and the homeland to the people, with Lebanon in my heart and conscience. If religious matters could be put aside, then Lebanon could and should be secularized, and that would ensure that everyone was granted his rights and people would not be able to reach certain positions because of their sect. That is why, when we began making some appointments, we did not take the sectarian aspect into consideration. Actually, at present we still have to be fair to all sects. We give 50 percent of the top-grade jobs to Christians and the other 50 percent to Muslims, but rest assured that from now on no position will be assigned exclusively to any particular sect as was the case in the past. I will give you an example. You surely remember that, in the past, the post of Foreign Ministry secretary general went to the Maronites, after consultation with the Maronite partriarch to see if he approved of the appointment or not. We did not consult anybody when we appointed the present secretary general, who is Roman Orthodox and who was selected purely on merit. [passage omitted]

We will maintain the fifty-fifty ratio for Christians and Muslims, however. I will give you another example. When we recently called for volunteers to join the army, we did not take into consideration the sects of the people who were to join. We just want to mold everyone into a national structure in defense of the homeland, not in defense of the sect. [passage omitted]

[B'albaki] Mr. President, the al-Ta'if agreement laid down the foundations for constitutional and political reforms. It also linked the time limits given for the dissolution of the militias and deployment of the Syrian forces to constitutional and political reforms. The lawful government has now been in office for over six months. Did the mutiny which occurred after the al-Ta'if agreement delay the introduction of constitutional reform and, therefore, delay the disbanding of the militias and the deployment of the Syrian forces? What is the extent of cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in this connection?

[Al-Hirawi] The mutiny in the eastern area certainly prevented completion of the constitutional amendments as quickly as expected and with the participation of all deputies. Despite all that, the cabinet has done its duty in two sessions and has prepared the draft amendments and sent them to the Chamber of Deputies. It has been said that many of the deputies who had met in al-Ta'if, the majority of whom are Christian, stayed in Paris for some time because they did not want these amendments. I have held consultations with those deputies. The mutiny forced the deputies out of their homes, so they felt that they did not wish to do something that might be construed in the future as having been done under pressure, by force of arms, by temptation, or by intimidation. That is why they insisted that the mutiny in the eastern area should be ended, so that each deputy could go from his own home to the Chamber of Deputies and, in complete freedom, pass the amendments he had approved in al-Ta'if and in al-Qulay'at. In my consultations with them their answer was frank and clear. I must emphasize here that, although it does not meet everyone's demands, al-Ta'if is the only peace agreement in our hands at present.

Furthermore, and I say it loud and clear, if the al-Ta'if agreement collapsed it would mean a calamity for the Lebanese, especially the Christians. They should be fully aware where they stand now. I will not say more. I will just say that it would be a calamity for the Lebanese. Let me just recall here that the answer to all past agreements favoring the Palestinians in Palestine was always no. We should learn a lesson from that and we should take quick steps forward to implement the [al-Ta'if] agreement.

[Karam] The government is said to have intimated that there is room for everyone in al-Ta'if. Would this be an attempt to please the angry people or a promise to expand the government? Do you agree with what has been said?

[Al-Hirawi] All that has been said about the al-Ta'if agreement is true. When the agreement was approved some people perhaps thought that it disregarded some group. I must here relate what did happen in al-Ta'if. It took the deputies five days to agree on internal affairs, but their discussions on foreign affairs and withdrawals lasted 19 days. In the end the deputies expressed the desire that every party should have a role to play in Lebanon under the agreement because it was a peace agreement. [passage omitted]

We were surprised by Michel 'Awn's refusal. Had he accepted the invitation, he would have stolen the limelight, but he persisted in his obstinacy, and everyone knows what happened after that.

As regards the role of the militias, there is a big section in the al-Ta'if agreement on that issue, asserting that the government is a government of national accord embodying everyone including state ministers for labor and political affairs. That would apply to all the militias. That is why you see Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, both militia leaders, with us today. We also had to invite Samir Ja'ja' and Al-Maradah [the giants] commander Sulayman Tony Franjiyah. The obstacle was Michel 'Awn. Had they all agreed to join the government, they would have adhered to the al-Ta'if agreement provision that the cabinet would make a decision dissolving the militias, with their arms handed to the Lebanese Army within six months of that decision, and six months later the Syrian forces would be assembled—the phrase "with our thanks" was added because we would definitely have been grateful—and would begin to withdraw gradually within the time limit set in the al-Ta'if agreement or perhaps even before that. During my talks with President al-Asad, he told me: I wish we could withdraw within one, not two years. The Syrian forces would be assembled in the western al-Biqa' awaiting developments

between us and the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon. That is why we urged unification of the army—the institution which serves the Lebanese homeland and flag and whose members have sworn to serve Lebanon and the flag, not individuals and personalities, contrary to what had been the custom in the past. We would then be able to send 10,000 soldiers to southern Lebanon to defend our borders and deter anyone seeking to fire Katyushas across the Lebanese borders that would result in Israeli air raids. We would then be able to implement the armistice agreement and Resolution 425 and we would be able to go to the Security Council and say: We are ready, come and implement your resolution. The mutiny in the eastern area, however, prevented that. Nonetheless, you know that ministers Michel Sasin and Dr Sa'adah, who had refrained from joining the government, joined it just before we went to Cairo. They are now discharging their duties. It does not matter to me whether they do so in the eastern area or in the western area. We will consider the possibilities when the military actions in the eastern area come to an end and everyone accepts the lawful authority, so that the government could certainly be expanded and the peace march completed. I am always optimistic because, no matter how long it takes, Lebanon and legitimacy in Lebanon will be the winner. I am all for hope, not despair.

[B'albaki] You, Your Excellency, and the lawful Lebanese government took a clear position on the question of the Baghdad Arab summit from the beginning. The summit, despite Lebanon's absence, did produce certain results regarding Lebanon. How satisfied are you and the lawful authority with these results? Did you expect more and better results?

[Al-Hirawi] The question is twofold. First, on the matter of attendance and who spoke for Lebanon, Lebanon responded to the invitation and answered without being influenced by anyone anywhere. We received the cable in the morning and the Arab League had our answer at noon. We specifically said that we would be perfectly willing to respond positively to the invitation on the following conditions: that there should be unanimity on the date and venue of the conference and that, in addition to the proposed issue for discussion, which we accepted, two more items should also be discussed, namely the situation in southern Lebanon to enable the state to implement Resolution 425, and full implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement to facilitate reconstruction of Lebanon as we were promised. [passage omitted]

On 21 May Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi contacted Prime Minister al-Huss, inviting him once again to attend. Al-Huss asked him: Will the Lebanese question be discussed? Klibi said: I don't think so. Prime Minister al-Huss, therefore, answered in the negative. [passage omitted]

Then there was the resolution [summit resolution on Lebanon]. I certainly thank the people who made an effort, but the resolution was insufficient because the tripartite committee report was in two parts. The report submitted to the conference had two items, one calling for the creation of an international fund and the other saying that the Lebanese Army should be given at least two brigades to enable it to do its national duty. The second item was rejected after discussion. Here I join the Lebanese people in asking: The government is asked to go to the south, put an end to Iqlim al-Tuffah incidents, and implement the west Beirut security plan. It is asked to fulfill many duties, which it should fulfill, but with what equipment and preparations? They promised us many things, but to this minute we have received nothing. I am banking on a phrase in the Arab summit resolution which spoke of "enabling Lebanon to impose its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory." If the fund is created and if we are permitted to use a part of its money to equip the army, then we are ready to so, otherwise I would ask with some pessimism: Why wouldn't they want us to have a strong army? Would that be because we are not meant to be able to implement Resolution 425, impose the state's authority, or thank the borrowed forces and tell them: We are ready to take care of our own security. The Lebanese people are asking these questions, and so am I.

[Karam] Your Excellency, today your three-way visits to three fraternal heads of state come to an end. Are you satisfied with the results? And what about your meeting with U.S. Ambassador McCarthy and Senator Percy in Cairo, where they happened to be? Were these two meetings a coincidence, or were they planned by the Americans?

[Al-Hirawi] I said at the beginning that to this day the outside world, regionally and internationally, does not know much about the Lebanese regime and the second republic, as it has been called. It was our duty, therefore, to let them know who we are and what our national objectives are, and how we intend to rebuild Lebanon. That is what I do on my visits. [passage omitted]

As regards my meetings with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, who was evacuated from Lebanon, and Senator Percy, I must say that the United States was really never absent from Lebanon. Even when a U.S. ambassador was killed it appointed a new ambassador. What happened, as everyone may recall, was that the U.S. ambassador and embassy had to leave the eastern area. Now he comes to visit us or to exchange views on some Lebanese issues—he comes to us in another Arab country because there is no security for him in Lebanon. I had often been asked to meet with some of them in Damascus, but I refused and said that they would be welcome on Lebanese territory. But here I was on an official visit and he called on me, so I welcomed him, and it was a chance to discuss many Lebanese issues, including issues of political nature and issues related to equipping the army. We will continue this process and complete it through our ambassador in Washington. As regards Senator Percy, I know from the press that he is moving from one country to another working for the Arab cause more than any other cause. When he asked to meet with me, I welcomed him. In our political and

nonpolitical discussions I emphasized the need to equip the army and expressed the hope that he would convey this to President Bush directly and to the defense secretary. I was pleased with his visit, which was not planned in advance. I could have declined to receive him, because he came at 0800 and I was supposed to leave Cairo at 0900.

Regarding my three visits, as I was about to say at the beginning of my answer, I am satisfied, very satisfied in fact, with these visits. It has been clear to me that everyone is perfectly willing to help the Lebanese state. [passage omitted]

[B'albaki] Your Excellency, Lebanon has enough problems of its own, but the question I am about to ask you perhaps falls within the context of Lebanese concerns. Before its latest crisis, Lebanon always advocated and worked for Arab solidarity and for Arab reconciliation because it believed that any Arab soldarity and that understanding would reflect positively on Lebanon and every disagreement or dispute would reflect negatively on Lebanon. To what extent is the Lebanese lawful authority under your leadership willing to work for a restoration of Arab solidarity and the elimination of Arab differences, so that Lebanon can benefit from a good Arab atmosphere?

[Al-Hirawi] The visits I make are part of these efforts you speak of. When Arab ambassadors meet in this hospitable country, I have heart-to-heart talks with them. I am not about to arouse differences or revive memories that are painful to me in relation to certain Arab states. That is why you see that some ambassadors, whose states still have not recognized the lawful authority, do attend these meetings and I have lengthy talks with them, and that includes both the Iraqi and the Palestinian ambassadors, now that Palestine is a state. There were no altercations and no air of sedition. I believe that at present we should all be in agreement within the Arab League, because the danger threatening us is grave.

[B'albaki] We sense from your answer that the government of Palestine and the Iraqi state have not, to this day, recognized the Lebanese lawful authority. What about that?

[Al-Hirawi] To this moment I have received nothing in this connection.

[B'albaki] But the recent Baghdad summit resolutions were adopted, or were said to have been adopted, unanimously. We have not seen the minutes of the discussions, but you must have. The public statement said that the resolutions were passed unanimously and that everyone approved these resolutions, including the need to support the lawful authority and create the necessary atmosphere in its favor. Do you not expect the states which have not yet recognized the lawful authority to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions? What is the value of such resolutions if they are not implemented?

[Al-Hirawi] I appreciate and respect all the Arab states. I respect their internal regimes and I do not intefere in their internal affairs. We are grateful for what has come out of the Baghdad summit, but I am waiting to see how implementation is going to take place in practice. To the assertion that there is recognition of and support for the letigimate authority, I say at this point that we are used to resolutions, but what interests me and the Lebanese people is implementation.

[Karam] Your Excellency, the expected appointments have been delayed. Is there any disagreement on that? Also, there has been much talk about differences or preconditions said to be preventing the Chamber of Deputies from meeting. What about coordination with the legislative authority?

[Al-Hirawi] I, as an executive authority, cannot interfere in the affairs of the Chamber of Deputies. Before leaving Lebanon, I signed a decree opening the Chamber's extraordinary session, which is supposed to remain open until 15 October. The Chamber, that is, its speaker and members, should be aware of their responsibilities, and they are.

As regards the appointments and rumors about differences, if you are referring to the postponement of the cabinet meeting, the reason was that the date for the meeting coincided with the first anniversary of the martyrdom of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami and many ministers were in Tripoli because of that. Also the dates set for my visits to Egypt, the Jamahiriyah, and Tunisia came as a surprise to me. The date of my departure was set. I had intended the cabinet meeting to take place Saturday or Tuesday, but the surprise of the visit schedule prevented that. There are no differences regarding the cabinet meeting or anything discussed and tackled by the cabinet. To explain the situtuon regarding appointments, I say that we are making preparations for public appointments to more than 90 posts. [passage omitted]

[B'albaki] Mr. President, the French ambassador has ceased his efforts. The papal nuncio has recently issued a statement containing positive points and speaking of the lawful authority. Are you satisfied with the positions of France and the Vatican?

[Al-Hirawi] Let me point out that we have given a chance to everyone who has approached the lawful authority with a plan for reconciliation, but I was sure that all attempts would fail. Why? Is the dispute over a national Lebanese issue that could be tackled by mediators, or is it over that private matter of lust for power? I wish that the differences were over national Lebanese issues that affect Lebanon's future, because they would be quite easy to tackle. The French ambassador made efforts and then stopped—I don't want to use the word failed. I warned the papal nuncio about that when he came to me, but I have given all mediators a chance. Why? Not for my sake but for the sake of the tormented Lebanese people, who have suffered so much from bombs, guns,

killing, destruction, and displacement and evacuation. Woe to Lebanon if this catastrophe continues. The time has come for the people to rise and frankly tell the combatants: enough—and to discard them all.

[Karam] What is the truth about the positions of France and the Vatican?

[Al-Hirawi] The French state has approved the al-Ta'if agreement. It had some proposals, but they have come to an end. It is saying: My proposals produced no results. Now it is the Vatican's turn. May God help the papal nuncio. Perhaps he can achieve something.

[B'albaki] The first visit you made after your election as president of the republic was to fraternal Syria and your brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The visit was an opportunity for very frank declarations by President Hafiz al-Asad on Syria's position on the al-Ta'if agreement and the lawful authority and on its readiness to help the lawful authority with anything the latter asks of Syria. Some time has now elapsed since that visit. What influence, in your view, did the Syrian position during that visit have on Lebanese developments?

[Al-Hirawi] The visit was a must. I made the visit with one thing deep in my heart and conscience for a long time. In 1943 there were no differences between the Lebanese and Syrian people. Everyone knows that there were no differences at family, trade, economic, cultural, or any other levels, but differences have occurred between the Lebanese and Syrian governments almost continuously since Lebanon's independence. [passage omitted]

I was sure that we must have frankness and clarity of vision regarding the future of Lebanon and Syria, and relations between them which should be based on firm political, security, economic, and other foundations. We began discussing that, and I conveyed the fears that many Lebanese people have about the Syrian intentions, the al-Ta'if agreement, Lebanon's independence, and the withdrawal of the Syrian Army. I did not use the word withdrawal but referred to the reassembling of that army. You were present and you know very well what President Hafiz al-Asad said in his answers at the joint press conference held before my departure from Damascus. Then the eastern area events occurred and the security developments prevented us from proceeding with what we had decided. Now there are negotiations on some economic matters. I am proceeding with the accord process and holding serious talks from time to time. The obstacle, and I say it frankly, is the regime's inability to control all the Lebanese territory that would enable it to implement the security part of al-Ta'if agreement.

[Karam] Mr. President, there is some talk about secret contacts that the regime is making through third parties wih Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja'. Is that true, and what is the nature of these contacts?

[Al-Hirawi] The doors of the temporary presidential palace where I live are open to everyone. I open my door to anyone who comes to complain or negotiate, because I am the father of all Lebanese. If emissaries are sent by Ja'ja' or Michel 'Awn I will receive everyone. What is important is that this destructive war must stop, and so must these evictions and evacuations. The destruction in the eastern area must stop. My top priority is to bring the military establishment together under the command of General Emile Lahhud. That would be the genuine nucleus of the Lebanese state, which would allow us to control all Lebanese territory.

As regards the militias, I have already said and I repeat that they do have a part to play under the al-Ta'if agreement. We would welcome anyone who wants to have a place in it, but to those who oppose the al-Ta'if agreement and want to be part of the peace process I am sorry to say that it is a question of relations not with Ilyas al-Hirawi but with the Lebanese state, which has pledged to unite Lebanon and impose lawful authority on all Lebanese territory. I do not agree to the militias' continuing to take control of ports or impose taxes here and there. Everyone must come under the canopy of the lawful authority. [passage omitted]

[Karam] What about the security plan and greater Beirut?

[Al-Hirawi] The security plan for west Beirut is one thing and greater Beirut is quite another. After my early visits to some Arab states, I very much wished that I could get what I had been promised to equip the part of the army under Gen. Emile Lahhud's command so he would implement the plan himself. Because the army, lacking in equipment but not in size, did not get the equipment, the Syrian Army is now implementing part of the security plan for west Beirut.

As regards greater Beirut, there are certain prerequisites: First, the mutiny in east Beirut should end, then negotiations should begin with the Lebanese militias so that they can leave the eastern area. Then, after that and in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement, Syria would very frankly be asked to play a part in the southern suburb. We would then be able to declare a greater Beirut extending from al-Kalb river to the outskirts of al-Damur. [passage omitted]

'Awn on Ties With Syria, Roundtable Negotiations

NC1506154190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has stated that there has been a reconsideration of policy. He said, however, that he does not want to make statements on behalf of Syria and added: If the Syrians say no, then each party will go back to its former position.

In an interview with the magazine AL-QAWMI AL-'ARABI, 'Awn remarked that the situation has changed. He added: I believe that the changes that have occurred with regard to the media and to the statements now being

made are greater than a mere reconsideration. He denied, however, that relations with Syria have reached the stage of direct ties.

'Awn reiterated his view that parliamentary elections will be the beginning of a solution. If it is not possible to hold such elections, he declared, then the various forces on the scene can embark on roundtable negotiations. He said: We must determine the structure of the future system and the structure of the solution. It would not be a solution, however, to redistribute the shares in the 1943 company [reference to the 1943 National Covenant according to which public appointments were distributed on a sectarian basis]. What happened in al-Ta'if was merely that the ratio of shareholdings in the 1943 company was changed.

'Awn said that the eastern area's war is at a stage of containment and has been put back into its general context; that is, it is now being dealt with in the context of efforts to deal with the existing militias. 'Awn added: I believe that there is a general understanding, whenever an agreement is made, that the legitimate Lebanese Armed Forces should be given their natural role.

Palestinian Factions Clash in Al-Rashidiyah Camp

Fatah Official Killed

NC1506192290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] AFP has reported that three masked gunmen opened fire at close range on Fatah official Ahmad Salim Darras and killed him in al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. The agency added that some of the camp's citizens barricaded the camp's entrance with stones and fired into the air in anger. AFP noted that Darras escaped an assassination attempt in December.

AFP Reports on Fighting

NC1606190890 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Al-Rashidiyah, Lebanon, June 16 (AFP)—Rival Palestinian factions fought with automatic weapons and rockets in south Lebanon Saturday, killing one person and wounding two others, Palestinian sources said.

The fighting that broke out at midday in the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp pitted supporters of Abu-Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council against FRC militants who in Tunis last November renewed their allegiance to the PLO.

The clashes, which went on until evening, came one day after the murder here of a senior official of the mainstream Fatah group that supports Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Fatah combatants in al-Rashidiyah were placed on alert as reinforcements from refugee camps further north arrived here.

The clashes were the bloodiest yet in a series of confrontations between hardline FRC militants and the breakaway faction which is calling for a return to Fatah ranks.

Palestinian sources identified the dead man as 33-year-old 'Umar Hamadah, FRC commander for the Tyre region, and said that the wounded were also partisans of Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna.

Fatah Friday accused "factions on the pay of Israel" of being responsible for the murder of one of its officials in al-Rashidiyah the same day which sparked the fighting.

In April, FRC official 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa, who supported moves to mend fences with the PLO, was stabbed and seriously wounded in Algiers in what was seen as a settling of scores between supporters and detractors of Abu-Nidal.

Two years ago Fatah had banned Abu-Nidal's supporters from any public activity in the al-Rashidiyah camp housing some 13,000 Palestinian refugees following confrontations with the FRC.

[Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1845 GMT on 16 June reports "that violent clashes erupted between two Palestinian factions of Abu-Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council in al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre in the south today. The sources said that one person was killed and at least two others were wounded."]

FRC Issues Statement

NC1706135290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] In the wake of the clashes in the al-Rashidiyah camp yesterday evening and this morning, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] issued a statement. It said that the gangs of killers and criminals were not content with the crime of assassinating 'Umar Hamid al-'Ali. While negotiations were under way to hand over the killers, groups attacked the al-Rashidiyah camp, using various types of weapons.

The statement said that the crimes being committed by Yasir 'Arafat's groups in al-Rashidiyah camp came after the escalation of armed operations against the Zionist enemy and on imperialist-Zionist instructions to touch off destructive internecine fighting in return for continuing the U.S.-Zionist dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. The FRC has emphasized its condemnation of the internecine fighting, stressing that it will stand firm in confronting this plot.

FRC Supporters Surrender

NC1706094190 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Al-Rashidiyah, Lebanon, June 17 (AFP)—Supporters of hardline Palestinian leader Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] surrendered Sunday after 24 hours of fierce factional fighting in this crowded refugee camp, PLO officials said.

The surrender came hours after the Palestine Liberation Organisation issued a statement in the nearby port city of Tyre ordering fighters of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) to hand over their weapons.

Palestinian sources said one person was killed and 15 wounded in the clashes between hardline FRC militants loyal to Abu Nidal and a breakaway faction that last November announced its allegiance to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu Nizar, an official in Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, said the FRC dissidents had managed by noon Sunday to surround 55 Abu-Nidal supporters who had retreated to a school in the camp, which houses 15,000 refugees.

The fighting, the worst in a series of confrontations between the rival FRC factions, broke out at midday Saturday with the two sides exchanging automatic weapon, anti-tank rocket and mortar fire in the camp's narrow streets.

Independent sources said Fatah members backed the FRC dissidents in the battle, while the pro-Abu-Nidal faction had the support of Muslim fundamentalists and fighters from Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

'Umar Hamadah, 33-year old FRC commander for the Tyre region, was killed in Saturday's clashes, while the wounded included at least two other members of the group and a number of civilians caught in the cross-fire.

The Fatah group had in recent months sharply reduced the FRC's influence in al-Rashidiyah, which is one of six Palestinian refugee camps around Tyre and is located only about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Israeli border.

A senior Fatah official, Ahmad Salim Darras, was gunned down in broad daylight in the camp Friday by masked men whose affiliation was unknown.

The whereabouts of Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, are not known but some reports have said that he is in Libya.

In April, FRC official 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Issa, who supported moves to mend fences with the PLO, was stabbed and seriously wounded in Algiers in what was seen as a settling of scores between supporters and opponents of Abu Nidal.

[At 0915 GMT on 17 June, Beirut Voice of Lebanon cites AFP and says "clashes are continuing between FRC mainstream and dissident gunmen in al-Rashidiyah camp."]

Iranian Hostages Dossier Missing From Ministry

NC1706110990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Government sources told our radio that the government has formed a team to inspect the Foreign Ministry's building in Bustrus palace in al-Ashrafiyah to assess the damage and repair whatever is possible in order to enable the ministry's secretary general to return and carry out his duties there and to open offices for Ministers George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin.

The sources said that the inspection revealed that the Lebanese Forces who recently occupied the building and turned it into one of their centers had confiscated all 20 telex machines, the building's telephone exchange, and telephones. They had also moved the furniture to al-Karantinah and hence to the Overly, the present Ja'ja' headquarters, and to the Phalangist branch in Kisrawan.

Reports say that the forces confiscated important dossiers and documents from the ministry's archives. The reports point to the loss of all documents pertaining to all discussions and information on Security Council Resolution 425 on the South and to the stands of the various parties and states regarding this resolution. The reports refer also to the loss of the dossier concerning the hostages, particularly information pertaining to the Iranian hostages who were kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces in 1982. The sources emphasized that this document includes accurate information which condemns the forces and indicates their coordination with Israeli intelligence, Mossad, in carrying out the kidnapping operation. The sources also referred to the disappearance of documents pertaining to the contacts which took place before and after the obstruction of the 1982 [date as heard] presidential elections, the role of the six-man Arab committee, and the role of the tripartite committee and its contacts with Michel 'Awn and the forces.

Sources Deny Soviet Jews Present in Rumaysh

NC1606062390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Security sources in the South have denied reports by the National News Agency that a number of Soviet Jews are present in Rumaysh. The sources pointed out that no Jewish settlers have been seen by the inhabitants of the region and that the nuns mentioned in the report have denied knowledge of anything of the sort.

Al-Musawi on Implications of Shamir's Government

NC1606074190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that Shamir's success in forming his extremist government means that the region is on the verge of new wars. He noted that major and basic developments are taking their course in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. These developments may be interpreted to be a Zionist expansion which will upset the balance in the entire region.

In his Friday sermon yesterday, His Eminence said world arrogance, Zionist schemes, and the Maronites are creating havoc in the Islamic arena in Lebanon in order to make fundamental demographic and geographic

changes. He noted that the current stage is very sensitive and requires strong cohesion among all those who confront the Zionist enemy.

Al-Husayni Leaves for Damascus Discussions

NC1606103590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus today to hold discussions with the Syrian officials and to brief them on the Lebanese official stand concerning the Vatican initiative.

Decrees Issued on Diplomatic Mission Transfers

NC1406152890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Decrees on transfers among the heads of Lebanese diplomatic missions abroad were issued today.

According to Decree 295, the following ambassadors have been recalled from abroad and reassigned to the Foreign Ministry: Zafir al-Hasan from Riyadh; Makram 'Uwaydat from Ottawa; Yahya Mahmasani from Vienna; Ja'far Ma'awi from Tehran; Samir Hubayqah from Brasilia; Salim Thabit from Caracas; Riyad al-Qantar from Montevideo; Jihad Murtada from Buenos Aires; Husayn Musawi from Sofia; Michel Bitar from Monrovia; Nasrat al-As'ad from Sanaa; and George Siyam from Doha.

According to Decree 296, Dr. Maurice Basus, director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed Lebanese ambassador to Buenos Aires. Dr. Asim Jabir, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry has been transferred to Ottawa as Lebanese ambassador to Canada.

According to Decree 297, Dr. Butrus Ziyadah, Lebanese ambassador to Jordan, has been appointed Lebanese ambassador to Uruguay. Salim Tadmuri, ambassador to Turkey, has been transferred to Moscow as ambassador to the USSR. Dr. Michel Abu-Khatir, ambassador to India, has been transferred to Monrovia as ambassador to Liberia.

According to Decree 298, Khalil al-Khalil has been transferred from the Netherlands to Ankara as ambassador to Turkey. Amin al-Khazin has been transferred from Mexico to Geneva as Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations and international organizations bureau there. Walid Nasr has been transferred from Islamabad to Sofia as Lebanese ambassador to Bulgaria.

According to Decree 299, Ambassador Zuhayr Hamdan has been transferred from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to Riyadh as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Amin 'Asi, director of expatriates affairs at the Foreign Ministry, has been transferred to Abu Dhabi as ambassador to the UAE.

Further on Activities of Algerian Delegation

Cooperation Minutes Signed

JN1506060690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jun (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today received Mr. Mohamed el-Mili, Algerian minister of education, in the presence of Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and Mr. Abdelkader al-Hadjar, Algeria's ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting centered on topics related to the existing cooperation between Syria and Algeria and the steps needed to further enhance this cooperation in all spheres.

The final session of the joint Syrian-Algerian higher committee for economic, cultural, and technical cooperation was held earlier today. Dr. Sabah Baqjaji attended for the Syrian side, and Mohamed el-Mili for the Algerian side.

After signing the minutes of the committee meetings, Dr. Baqjaji delivered a speech praising the fruitful results achieved at the end of the talks, which have as their aim bolstering ties of bilateral brotherliness and cooperation in all areas.

El-Mili expressed happiness at the results of the committee's discussions, describing these as important and comprehensive, and adding that they will further enhance and develop cooperation and integration between Syria and Algeria.

The minutes also provide for developing bilateral relations in trade, attempting as much as possible to achieve a trade balance, and cooperating in agriculture, entrepreneurship, projects, transportation, oil, and gas.

The two sides also signed a program for the cultural agreement between Syria and Algeria which provides for developing and bolstering bilateral cooperation in education, higher education, culture, media, sports, and youth.

Al-Ahmar Receives El-Mili

JN1306165290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, today received Mohamed el-Mili, Algeria's minister of education, member of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee, and chairman of the education, culture, and evaluation committee. The meeting was attended by Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and Algerian Ambassador to Syria Abdelkader al-Hadjar [name and title as heard].

The talks dealt with the fraternal cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the FLN, the activities of the two parties in Syria and Algeria, and issues of joint interest to the two parties. The talks also dealt with regional developments, the dangers overwhelming the Arab nation, and the required Arab stand to face these dangers and plots aimed at undermining the Arab causes.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the need for joint Arab action leading to effective Arab solidarity on the way to Arab unity and emphasized the role of the political organizations in strengthening this action. He said Syria and Algeria are working along this path and making big efforts to this end.

For his part, el-Mili praised Syria's national and pan-Arab policy and stressed the ties that bind it to Algeria. He said the two countries are fighting in the same trench in confronting the Arab nation's enemies.

During the meeting, el-Mili conveyed greetings from FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri to the Ba'th Party leadership. Comrade al-Ahmar asked him to convey similar greetings from the Ba'th Party leadership to Mehri and the FLN leadership.

Al-Shar' Returns From Turkey Visit

JN1606205590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation returned to Damascus this evening following a three-day official visit to Turkey.

Al-Shar' was seen off at Istanbul airport by Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer, senior Turkish Foreign Ministry staff, the head of the Ministry's protocol department, Syrian Ambassador to Turkey 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, Syrian Consul in Istanbul Khuza'i Milli, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

AL-BA'TH Pessimistic on UN Fact-Finding Envoy

JN1806110890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's "With the Events" corner, AL-BA'TH says in an article entitled "The United States, Israel, and the One Hundred-Day Time Limit": The United States' silence toward Israel's daily crimes against the Arabs of the occupied land—the killings, poisoning of children, and demolishing of homes—is merely practical evidence of the United States' direct involvement in Zionist war rabbi Moshe Arens' plan. Therefore, no benefit is expected from the dispatch of a UN fact-finding envoy since the U.S. veto is lying in wait and the United States and Israel have jointly determined the one hundred-day time limit to crush the intifadah.

AL-BA'TH affirms: The United States and Israel have ignored a fact that should be considered; that is, two million Arabs under occupation have decided and chosen their path. They will either triumph or be killed all together. Arab time, no matter how late, will be in the interest of defending Arab rights and existence. [sentence as heard]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Attends Ministry Party Conference

LD1706181190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, took part in the party conference of Ministry of Defense General Staff and headquarters this morning. It was held in the atmosphere of democracy, solidarity and full understanding. The party conference of Army General Staff and the Ministry of Defense headquarters was held to deepen and accelerate national reconciliation and the election of representatives to the Second PDPA Congress, and the work of political organizations for the implementation of the Second PDPA Congress resolutions and the future tasks of party members.

At the congress, esteemed Najibullah was elected unanimously as a representative to the Second PDPA Congress.

At the beginning of the conference, Afghan Defense Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar presented a report. Later, some PDPA members, on behalf of others, expressed the readiness of their party organization members for the implementation of the Second PDPA Congress resolutions and demands. After members of the conference unanimously elected representatives to participate in the Second PDPA Congress, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah gave a detailed and instructive speech, in which he set out the future tasks of party members. He said: The Second PDPA Congress will be convened after 26 years and our country's special historic circumstances. During this period, great political changes have taken place in the country, the region, and the world, and we can say that our society has been the victim of these great changes.

At the end of the conference, Lieutenant General Manokay Mangal, head of Army political affairs, reassured esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, party organizations, and PDPA members in the Armed Forces about the deepening and acceleration of the national reconciliation policy and about the implementation of the future tasks for further combat preparedness in the Army.

Minister Hands Over Soviet Prisoner 11 Jun

LD1606171990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Nurmomad Khadimuradov, a Soviet soldier who was arrested by the Afghan opposition in the month of Saratan 1367 [22 June-22 July 1988] was released by the country's security forces in Baghlan Province on 11 June 1990. He was handed over to Soviet parliamentary representatives Shetko and Ochirov this morning by Deputy Foreign Minister Daud Kawiani.

At this ceremony, the deputy foreign minister stated that the Republic of Afghanistan will employ all means in its all-round efforts to bring about the release of Soviet prisoners who are with the Afghan opposition. In return, the Soviet parliamentary representatives expressed thanks to the Armed Forces and people of the Republic of Afghhanistan for the efforts made to release Soviet prisoners who are with the Afghan opposition.

At the end of the ceremony, the soldier himself expressed his appreciation to the Government and Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan for their unstinting efforts to achieve his release.

FRG Light Aircraft Lands Illegally in Herat

LD1706170290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] This afternoon around 1530 local time, a Cessna-150 aircraft of the Federal Republic of Germany and its pilot (Dean), a subject of that country, illegally entered the Republic of Afghanistan from a westerly direction and landed at Herat airport. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that the matter is under assessment and investigation.

Mopping-up Operations Reported in Paghman 14 Jun

LD1406202290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The units and subunits of the Armed Forces, Kabul Garrison, have carried out today a serious of mopping-up and combat operations in Paghman and Koh-e Safi regions.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that during these operations 32 men, including three Saudi Wahhabis, were put out of action; and over 2,000 mortar shells, 70 SAKR-20 missiles, one mortar, 320 shells for recoilless guns, 120 shells for rocket launchers, 84 boxes of ammunition for heavy machine guns, eight boxes of ammunition for light machine guns, and one food supply depot were seized.

As a result of blows by the Armed Forces, a quantity of weapons and ammunition, and six enemy hideouts, were destroyed.

Operations in Nangarhar Province Detailed

LD1506085190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0447 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 14, BAKHTAR—Over 93 enemies were cleared from the battle scenes in the Nangarhar Province, Khost grand district as well as Kandahar and Kalat cities during the past 3 days (June 11-13, 1990), a concerned military source said to a BAKHTAR reporter here today.

The enemies who took under their heavy fires security posts around Jalalabad city, the Khost security posts and

the Kandahar and Kalat security belts and their environs were heavily pounded by the land and air forces of the government during those days.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy were totally destroyed.

Army Gunners Fire Missiles on Hekmatyar Base

BK1706005790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1749 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 16 (AFP)—Two long range surface-to-surface Scud missiles hit a military base of resistance leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar overnight but the guerrilla chief escaped unhurt, AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said Saturday [16 June].

The Soviet-made missiles fired from a Kabul launch site caused unspecified material losses but did not damage any buildings or cause any casualties, the agency run by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction said.

This was the first Scud attack directly targeting the influential fundamentalist leader's base at Spin Shega in eastern Paktia Province. The agency said Mr. Hekmatyar was present in the area at the time of attack.

Afghan Army gunners fired three Scuds around midnight, the agency said. One fell inside government-controlled territory while two others hit in quick succession within one kilometer (0.63 miles) of each other near the resistance base.

Spin Shega is Mr. Hekmatyar's most important base. Located on a hill dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan, it has storage facility for arms and ammunition, Afghan sources said.

Mujahidin Destroy Two Gunships, MiG-23 Bomber

BK1706143890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and forces of the Kabul regime at various points in the country. The mujahidin destroyed two helicopter gunships in an operation at (Bhir) near Qandahar airport and seized two military vehicles and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. They also attacked Kabul regime positions in the western sector of the besieged city of Jalalabad and destroyed a major hydroelectricity plant.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1411 GMT on 17 June carries a similar report adding that "the Afghan resistance shot down a MiG-23 fighter-bomber...this week" in addition to the helicopter gunships mentioned above. The report adds: "The MiG was hit by mujahidin anti-aircraft batteries over the village of Sighnay, northeast of the main Bagram airbase near Kabul."]

Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina Rejects Government Election Plans

BK1706120990 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jun 90 pp 1, 10

[Text] Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has rejected outright the presidential polls which the government plans to hold in May next year, reports UNB [United News of Bangladesh].

"People do not want presidential election but parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker body for establishing a representative government," Hasina told a public meeting in Dhaka on Thursday [7 June].

The meeting in front of Awami League office was organised by the party to mark the historic June 7 when the six-point movement was launched in 1966.

The Awami League leader said President Ershad planned to hold the next presidential election with "pre-determined result." People will not accept such stage-manged election to prolong autocracy in the country, she added.

President Ershad announced May 26 that he will run for the presidency for a second term.

Criticising the government, she alleged it was deeply engaged in corruption, smuggling and anti-people activities.

Hasina called upon the people to observe countrywide half-day hartal [strike] on June 17 to mobilise opinion against the 'autocratic rule'.

The Awami League leader, without naming the party, was also critical of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). "Their politics is to resist Awami League and protect Ershad," she said.

Referring to the coming national budget, Hasina warned that people will not pay any new taxes. She asked the government to stop disinvestment and spendings in unproductive sectors.

The meeting was also addressed by Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Dr Kamal Hossain, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Zillur Rahman, Qamruzzaman, Salauddin Yusuf, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Mohammad Nasim, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and Obaidul Quader.

Strike Called To Protest Government, Budget

No Violence Reported

BK1706054490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Dhaka, June 17 (AFP)—Life in Dhaka was disrupted Sunday [17 June] by a half-day general strike called by a major opposition group protesting the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and its newly announced

annual budget. Witnesses said most public and private transports, excepting some tricycle rickshaws, went off the roads, while shops and business centres remained shut as the anti-government stoppage, the first here in recent months, went into effect early Sunday.

Police said security measures were taken against possible violence during the strike, called by the eight-party alliance dominated by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League. Police were posted around the government Secretariat and other possible trouble spots, but no disturbances were reported, a metropolitan police official said.

Most schools, gas stations, bus terminals and shopping centres in downtown Dhaka were closed, witnesses said, but government offices and banks were open, although with limited activities and clients.

The stoppage, due to end shortly after midday, also affected other Bangladesh towns including the port city of Chittagong, strikers said, without providing details. In strike-bound Chittagong, strikers were seen setting fire to tyres and barricading some of the mostly deserted roads. Truckloads of police patrolled the streets, but no violence was reported. The stoppage did not affect internal work at the port terminal in Chittagong, Bangladesh's second-largest city after Dhaka.

Alliance officials said the strike was called to press their standing demand for the resignation of the eight-year-old Ershad government and dissolution of present Parliament, followed by the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections for establishing a representative government. The action was also called to protest the budget announced by Finance Minister Abdul Munem in Parliament on Thursday [14 June], they said, adding that their demands included the immediate repeal of all new tax proposals, as they would push up prices.

Sheikh Hasina, who briefly led a torch-lit procession here late Saturday [16 June] supporting the strike, urged people to reject what she termed the "anti-people" budget of the government. She did not elaborate. Mr. Munem has proposed a 129.6 billion taka (3.7 billion dollar) budget for fiscal 1990-1991, which analysts and critics said reflected conditions laid down by international financial institutions and relying heavily on taxes and foreign aid.

Dhaka Returns to Normal

BK1706101690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, June 17 (AFP)—Life in Dhaka returned to normal Sunday after a half-day general strike called by a major opposition group protesting the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and its new annual budget.

Vehicles returned to the streets and shops opened their shutters after the eight-hour stoppage that disrupted normal life in downtown Dhaka. But in some old parts of the capital, the strike—which went off peacefully excepting a brief clash between police and strikers—failed to evoke much response, a reporter who visited the area said. [passage omitted]

Police were posted around the government Secretariat and other possible trouble spots where no incident was reported, a Metropolitan Police official said. But witnesses said that police wielding batons chased away a group of pro-strike activists near the Awami League's central office in the downtown district of Gulistan. No one was reported injured in the police action, which came after the activists pelted stones at a police patrol, they said.

Most schools, gas stations, bus terminals and shopping centres in downtown Dhaka were closed, witnesses said, but government offices and banks were open although with limited activities and clients.

The stoppage, which ended shortly after midday, also affected othe Bangladesh towns including the port city of Chittagong, strikers said, without providing details. [passage omitted]

Medical School Closed After Student Clashes

BK1806072890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Dhaka, June 18 (AFP)—Authorities closed a medical college in southern Bangladesh on Sunday [17 June] after rival student groups clashed and ransacked dormitories, forcing police intervention, press reports here said Monday [18 June]. All classes and ongoing examinations were suspended indefinitely at the college, located in the coastal town of Barisal, after Sunday's fighting between local activists of the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) and the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) during a campus function, the reports said. At least three students were reported injured and hospitalised.

Police moved into the campus after the clashes spread to 10 student dormitories, where rooms of rival activists were allegedly ransacked and belongings looted, the Bengali daily ITTEFAQ reported. It said students were asked to leave their dormitories by late Sunday and that police patrolled some sensitive parts of the town.

The BCL is the student wing of the opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, while the JCD is backed by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The Awami League and BNP, Bangladesh's two former ruling parties ousted by military coups, are politically opposed.

India

JKLF Leader Declares Independent Jammu-Kashmir

BK1806110490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 18 (AFP)—A leader of the Moslem secessionist

drive in India-held Kashmir on Monday [18 June] declared the independent state of Jammu and Kashmir and named a provisional government.

Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] —one of several militant groups spearheading a campaign for secession from New Delhi— told a press conference here the 24 ministers and 16 advisers included "representatives of all factions engaged in the freedom struggle." Nominees from Ladakh, which borders Tibet and China, will join the council later, he added.

Ministers of the provisional government of independent Jammu and Kashmir announced Monday (portfolios not announced):

Abdul Ghani Lone
Abdul Hameed Sheikh
Asia Indrabi
Agha al-Mosvi
Autar Singh
Azam Inqilabi
Bashir Ahmed Butt
Bhushan Bajaj
Dr. Farooq Haider
Dr. Karan Singh
Ghulam Nabi Butt
Hiday Nath Jathoo
Hilal Ahmed Baig
Javed Ahmed Mir
Mian Abdul Qayyum
Mirwaiz Umar Farooq
Mohammed Yasin Malik
Muzaffar Ali Khan
Professor Abdul Ghani
Raja Mohammed Muzaffar Khan
Sardar Rasheed Hasrat
Shabbir Ahmed Shah
Shakil Bukhshi
Syed Ali Shah Saheb Gilani

Advisers:
Afzal Jatalvi
Ali Mohammed Khwajwall
Ashraf Sahaf
Azmat Khan
Dr. Ayub Thokar
Dr. P. Mir
G.N. Fai
Iftikhar Chaudhry
Mohammed Haleem Khan
Mohammed Ajeeb
Shabbir Chaudhry
Raja Zafar Khan
M.H. Mehboob
Maqsood Ghaury
Professor A. Rasheed
Aziz Shahi

Mr. Amanullah Khan also named a four-member panel to publicise "violation of human rights by Indian forces of occupation" in Kashmir. Panel members are Farooq Kathwari, Farooq Khan, Rafiq Khan and M.A. Hussain.

The provisional government could be expanded "as and when need arises," he said.

Minister Accuses Pakistan of Subversion in Kashmir

BK1706131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that India will fight to the last to defend every inch of Kashmir from any outside onslaught. Addressing a public meeting at (Kotranka) in the border district of Rajaori today, he accused Pakistan of indulging in subversive activities in Kashmir and Punjab. Mufti said that Pakistan foreign minister's statement yesterday that his country will continue to give moral and political support to the Kashmiri militants has proved that Pakistan is behind all subversive activities in the valley. He said Pakistan is fighting a war by proxy. The home minister said those assisting subversives in Kashmir should look inward and redress the grievances of their own people instead of meddling with the affairs of the other countries.

Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said Pakistan has not been able to protect the integrity and interests of the people who migrated to Pakistan in the wake of partition. Ethnic riots in Pakistan have shown that religion cannot be the basis for nationhood. The home minister said the minorities in India are fully secure and there is no threat to their identity. India is a secular country and all the fruits of development are available to all citizens.

Mufti said the government will try all peaceful methods to bring the misguided youths to join the national mainstream. The home minister appealed to all national and secular forces to join hands to face the threat of terrorism. This is the time when all should forget their differences to see a prosperous Kashmir.

Earlier, the home minister held a meeting with the senior officers of the security forces in the border district of Poonch and Rajaori to review the measures taken to check the infiltration of the Pakistani-trained militants and smuggling of arms. This is the second visit of the mufti in a month to the border districts.

Says No Talk 'at Gunpoint'

BK1806050690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that the challenges posed by terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab will be met with a firm hand. Addressing a public meeting at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, he declared that there can be no dialogue with the terrorists at gunpoint. The home minister added that the territorial integrity of the country will be protected at all costs and not even an inch of the land will be allowed to secede from the country.

Further Violence Marks Kashmir Situation

Bombings Rock Buddhist Town

BK1606170790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—Bomb blasts damaged the house of a former state minister and a number of other buildings in a Buddhist-majority border town in India's northern Kashmir state, officials said Saturday [16 June]. A series of bombs went off in "rapid succession" in curfew-bound Leh town in Jammu and Kashmir state's Buddhist-majority Ladakh District bordering Tibet late Friday [15 June].

The blasts in Leh, which is Ladakh's district headquarters, heavily damaged the house of former Jammu and Kashmir Minister Sonam Wangyal, officials in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, reached by telephone said Saturday. They said a tourist centre, an Islamic high school and a government guest house were also damaged in the blasts which they believed were the work of activists of the local Buddhist association. However no one was injured or killed, they said.

Security had been tightened after the new violence in Leh, where the Buddhists, who have been demanding a federally administered area status for Ladakh, and activists of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) had fought last week. An indefinite curfew was slapped on Leh after last week's violence, during which a police station was also attacked by mobs.

Army on Alert After Violence

BK1706105490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jammu, India, June 17 (AFP)—Troops were put on alert Sunday [17 June] in a border area of India's troubled Kashmir state, a day after Buddhist monks bombed buildings and fought pitched battles with police, officials and witnesses said. Paramilitary troopers patrolled Leh, the headquarters of Kashmir's frontier Ladakh District on the Tibetan border, and the Army was put on security alert as a Buddhist campaign for separation from India-held Kashmir turned violent Saturday, they said. Witnesses said the Buddhist protestors also hurled rocks at police Sunday in the 11,500-foot (3,833-metre), militarily strategic region.

Officials in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital, denied the report.

Scores of Buddhist monks shouting anti-India and anti-Kashmir slog Saturday bombed an Islamic school, a police station, a tourist centre and the home of a former Kashmir minister, ending a 10-month lull in the area. The Buddhists, demanding federal administration and funding for Ladakh, also burned a government guest house and fought with security troopers, as police slapped an indefinite curfew in the region, the highest Indian Himalayan district.

"The situation is under control, but tense today," a police officer in Leh said by telephone. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Moslem militants armed with grenades and guns attacked several other Kashmiri towns Saturday and Sunday, causing large-scale damage to government buildings, officials here said. Suspected Moslem militants hanged a village council official Sunday in Badgam District, the officials said without elaborating.

Several private vehicles and a state-owned telephone exchange were damaged Sunday in tiny Shupiyan town when militants hurled bombs, they said, adding that 10 people were injured Saturday in an attack on security troopers in three districts of Srinagar, Kashmir's turbulent summer capital. Four government offices and a private school were also destroyed in attacks in southern Anantnag District, the officials said.

New Delhi has said it will hold talks with Moslem militant leaders Kashmir, but only after violence in the northern state ends.

Six Killed in Kashmir 17 Jun

BK1706160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, six persons, including a terrorist, were killed in Srinagar, Kupwara and Badgam today. Five terrorists entered a house in Bana Mohalla in Srinagar and killed three members of the family and injured six others by firing indiscriminately. Two bodies were recovered from Kupwara and Badgam. One terrorist was killed by the security forces in Kupwara today. In Gandarbal, terrorists fired at a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] vehicle. However, no one was injured.

Curfew was relaxed for 12 hours in the old city area of Srinagar, while it was relaxed for 13 hours in other parts of the city. According to an official spokesman, life remained normal in Srinagar city throughout the day.

AFP Reports 11 More Deaths

BK1806005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1705 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Jammu, India, June 17 (AFP)—At least 11 more people, including four militants and three men in one family, were killed Sunday [17 June] in continuing violence in India's troubled Kashmir valley, police said. The four militants were gunned down by the paramilitary border security force in Uri sector near the border with Pakistan as they tried to slip back to India, police said. No further details of the incident were available. However, police said militants gunned down six people, including three in one family, and hanged a tax collector in separate incidents in the troubled valley Sunday.

The Indian army also continued a search in curfew-bound Srinagar, the summer capital in Jammu and Kashmir state, and arrested 25 suspected militants and seized explosives, reports here in the winter capital of the state said.

Hindu and Sikh government officials moved from here to Srinagar at the beginning of the summer meanwhile continued a protest that began earlier this month.

Many officials have defied a government order to report for work by Saturday [16 June] to protest what they say is the mistreatment of civilians by security forces. Some officials are also holding a hunger strike.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed appealed to residents to be vigilant against what he called "nefarious designs" of pro-Pakistan militants to create trouble in the valley. The mufti told a public meeting at a village near here that India would "fight to the last man" to defend the territory. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of supporting militants in Kashmir, a charge denied by Pakistan.

More than 625 people, including Moslem militants and security forces, have died so far this year in violence linked to Kashmiri unrest against New Delhi rule over the region.

'Huge' Cache of Explosives Seized in Srinagar

BK1606032290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces yesterday captured a huge quantity of explosives and some arms during a raid on a terrorist hideout in a Srinagar locality. The haul included 25 kg of explosive material, 84 detonators, one pistol with 80 rounds, several audio and video cassettes of subversive propaganda, and a large number of snow boots.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful yesterday except for an incident in Sopor, where terrorists attacked a BSF [Border Security Force] party with automatic weapons.

In Srinagar City, people offered Friday prayers peacefully in all the local mosques. Curfew has been relaxed for six hours from 0600 this morning in areas under the jurisdiction of four police stations. The rest of the city will have usual 13-hour relaxation from 0600 this morning.

Information 'To Smash' Terrorists Obtained

BK1606162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The situation in the Kashmir valley is fully under control and the security forces have obtained sufficient intelligence to smash the terrorists network.

Talking to newsmen in Jammu today, the director general of BSF [Border Security Forces], Mr. H.P. Bhatnagar, disclosed that there are about 35 terrorist groups and their leaders operating in the Kashmir valley and from across the border. They have been identified and many of them have already been either killed or arrested. The director general said the infiltration and exfiltration routes of the terrorists have been effectively sealed with the deployment of additional forces on the border.

Prime Minister Discusses Relations With Neighbors

BK1506163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister has called for a national debate on drawing a richness line such as the poverty line to bring about equity among the people. He said people should be brought above the poverty line, but nobody should be above the richness line. Mr. V.P. Singh was talking to newsmen aboard the special aircraft on his way back to New Delhi after a day's visit to Madhya Pradesh. He said he will soon be writing to all chief ministers, leaders of various political parties and legislators to invite their views. Economists will also be consulted in framing a broad policy.

Replying to a question about the formation of a national government, Mr. Singh said there is no agreement on it.

About the proposal for the rationing of petroleum products, the prime minister said the balance of payment position is not very good and rationing might be needed.

The prime minister said India has better ties with Nepal now, and a lot of understanding has been reached with Bangladesh on sharing of waters. It has the territorial and boundary problems with China and Pakistan. But a dialogue is continuing with Beijing, while Pakistan missed the opportunity. He said India is ready for talks with Islamabad. But it has to prove its intentions by stopping all aid and abetment to terrorism and secessionism in Kashmir and Punjab. He said India took the initiative and withdrew its troops from Mahajan Range and Pakistan should also reciprocate in a concrete manner. [passage omitted]

Gujral Notes Pakistani, Sri Lankan Situations

BK1606033490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The external affairs minister has expressed the hope that Pakistan will respond positively to the package of measures offered by India unilaterally for defusing tension. Speaking at a function in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral made it clear that the territorial integrity of the country is not negotiable at any cost, but India has a political will and commitment to establish friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan, he said. Mr. Gujral asked Islamabad to give up belligerence and covert aggression for promoting bilateral ties.

About Sri Lanka, the external affairs minister said a solution to the problem in the island is possible only if the Tamils and Sri Lankans sit together at the negotiating table and sort out their differences without adopting rigid positions.

Referring to his forthcoming visits to Iraq and Germany, Mr. Gujral said India would continue to support the cause of the Palestinian people and welcomes the process of German reunification.

Spokesman Welcomes U.S. Decision on Trade Act

BK1506163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi has welcomed the U.S. decision to defer action against India under the Super-301 provision of its trade act. An official spokesman said the country has already taken several measures to liberalize its trade policy. However, it wanted the U.S. Government to appreciate India's domestic compulsions. The spokesman said the Commerce Ministry feels that the American decision is a response to India's opposition to resolve such trade issues under bilateral framework.

As already reported, Washington has announced that it will defer action against India under the Super-301 provision till the completion of the Uruguay round of GATT negotiations.

External Affairs Minister To Visit FRG 20 Jun

BK1506163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, is to pay a three-day visit to West Germany from next Wednesday [20 June]. He will have extensive discussions with his West German counterpart on bilateral, regional, and international matters. Mr. Gujral will also address a meeting of heads of Indian missions in EEC countries at Frankfurt.

Maoist Guerrillas Reportedly Kidnap Six

BK1806080090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, six persons, including a woman, are reported to have been kidnapped by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group at Kamareddi in Nizamabad District. According to agency reports, the abduction took place on Saturday [16 June] but the police were informed about it only last night.

Iran

President Says Talks With Iraq Underway

LD1806143990 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), June 18, IRNA—Iranian and Iraqi representatives are holding talks to prepare the ground for direct negotiations, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [18 June].

"The main focus of our work is Resolution 598, and we have called on the U.N. secretary-general to continue his efforts so that the role of the secretary-general and 598 is not undermined," he told a press conference.

The president also disclosed that 10 billion dollars have been allocated for military purchases during the current five-year development plan, with an emphasis that "major work must be done inside the country." He said, among third world countries "we have the strongest and largest military industries, and will produce as much as we need on the basis of priority."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed satisfaction with forces fighting drug trafficking, saying "This is not an internal issue since it is supported from abroad.

"Therefore", he added, "as we have closed in on these elements (drug traffickers) inside, we should do the same outside the country."

The president was talking to reporters at the reception hall of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (pbuh) [peace be upon him], the 8th imam of the prophet's (pbuh) infallible household, at the end of his 5-day tour of Khorasan province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage toured the northeastern border towns as Dargaz, Shirvan, Bojnurd and the cities of Sabzevar and Neishabour [name as received]. They also inspected several development projects around the holy shrine.

After the press conference, the president and his entourage flew back to Tehran, seen off by the leader's representative and superintendent of the holy shrine and a number of other local officials.

Amal Suggests Exchange of Rushdie, UK Hostages

LD1706180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Hisham, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement of Lebanon announced that if Britain were to deport Salman Rushdie, at least one of the British hostages would be released. He was speaking in an interview given to the UPI and DPA, in which he also said: Britain should demonstrate its goodwill in order to break the deadlock over the hostages and deport Salman Rushdie and in that case, we too shall reciprocate with regard to British hostages.

Mohtashemi Comments on Arab Summit, U.S. Plots

NC1406180990 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 May 90 p 18

[Political commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran Majles deputy: "The Baghdad Session—A Cover for U.S. Plots in the Region"]

[Text] Finally, after two months of talks and debates, including a tug of war on 'Arafat's proposal to hold the conference of Arab leaders in Baghdad, the summit took place in Baghdad, without the participation of five Arab leaders, and concluded yesterday after issuing a statement.

Before and during the session, both the Western and the Eastern superpowers sent messages. Shamir, prime minister of the occupied Jerusalem regime, also addressed an official letter to the Arab leaders, defining the limits of their agenda and policies!

Gorbachev justified his policy of continuing the dispatch of Soviet and East European Jews with the promise that this issue will constantly be discussed, along with the issue of Arab-Israeli peace, in his meetings with George Bush. Bush and his secretary of state sent a warning regarding their policy of intending to retain their warships in the Persian Gulf.

Yitzhaq Shamir warned that the session should not further fan the flames of the intifadah of the Palestinian people and should strengthen the course of direct talks and Arab-Israeli peace. The Baghdad summit scenario can be analyzed as follows: In order to cover up for and justify its plots and the policy of arrogance in the region, especially in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, the United States gave permission to its puppet governments in the region to stage a political maneuver while, at the same time, it outlined in red the limits which they should not exceed.

In this context, the second letter from the United States to the Arab leaders congregated in Baghdad—which was reported by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS—is very eloquent. In this letter, which is considered as an addendum to the earlier one from Bush, the U.S. secretary of state specified the stance of world arrogance and its guardianship of the world, especially the Arab countries:

1. The United States considers itself obliged to support freedom of navigation in international waters, including the Persian Gulf.
2. The United States is responsible for the free export of oil through the Strait of Hormuz and for the protection of the stability and security of friendly countries in the region.
3. Washington is determined that the presence of its military warships will be maintained in the Persian Gulf.
4. The United States expresses anxiety regarding any decision taken at the extraordinary session of the Arab leaders in Baghdad, which in any way might result in a reduction of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf or might in any way interfere in the level of support by the friendly countries in the region.

Thus, at the behest of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel, the Baghdad summit was convened with the following points outlined in red, which were not to be exceeded:

A. The U.S. military presence and colonial domination in the region should not be questioned.
B. The influx of the usurpist Soviet and European Jews to Palestine and its acceleration should not be hindered.
C. The Palestinian uprising, the intifadah against the occupied Jerusalem regime, should not be accelerated.
D. The export of oil and the economic interests of the West and the United States should not be threatened, restricted, or hampered in any way. In this regard, the servile Arab leaders at the Baghdad session vehemently rejected a temporary relative embargo by the oil-producing countries (as in 1973) on countries providing facilities for the invading Jewish refugees. In fact, the Arab governments even rejected a proposal for a boycott of airlines and shipping lines.

The gains of the Baghdad session can be summarized as follows:

1. The consolidation of the Ba'athist Iraqi regime's position among the Arab countries' leaders and the bestowal of the required prestige on the image of Saddam among Arab nations by means of the mass media.

2. Financial and political support for the Arab Cooperation Council, the members of which are Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen, and for the PLO, with the guidance of Saddam Husayn, and an increase in the level of financial assistance by the oil-rich Arabs to King Husayn, which is being reported as amounting to approximately $600 million. (This was decided in light of King Husayn's announcement that he would have to endure increased expenses as a result of the influx of refugees following the settlement of Jews in the occupied territories.)
A. The boosting of financial aid to 'Arafat and the PLO which was approved in principle, on the basis of the adoption of an obsequious policy and of direct talks [with Israel]. (News sources have said that when Yasir 'Arafat complained to the Arab leaders that only one of all the Arab nations has adhered to its financial commitments, Saddam put his hand on 'Arafat's shoulder and said: O Abu-'Ammar, do not worry. From now on the Arabs are with you.)

It is clear to those with political acumen which Arabs are with 'Arafat?!!
B. The reinstatement of the Camp David regime of Egypt, the transfer of the Arab League Secretariat permanently to Cairo, the convocation of official and annual sessions of the Arab leaders in Egypt, thus giving the seal of approval to compromise with Egypt and official recognition of the usurpers of Palestine.

3. The violation of the rules and regulations of the Arab League Charter to ensure the unconditional approval of the policy of the United States and the West by the majority of the servile Arab leaders, especially since, according to the basic rules and regulations of the Arab League, decisions approved at the Arab League sessions can only be ratified if approved unanimously. The purpose of this policy was to guarantee the correctness of decisions made. However, this session, which took place in the absence of the leaders of five countries, including Syria and Algeria, who were the most pivotal members, in practice violated the legitimacy and authenticity of the Arab League summit session in favor of the objectives of the United States and Israel. It seems that decisions will henceforth be made very easily by the Arab kings and leaders within the framework of the policies of world arrogance, merely by a majority of votes.

In fact, the purpose of convening the Arab summit in Baghdad was to divert public opinion from the crimes of

the Zionists in Palestine, curb the uprising of the Palestinian Arabs and Muslims, and stress the continued U.S. role during the talks and the compromise of the Arabs and the PLO with Israel.

In brief, the extraordinary Arab session is a cover for the U.S. plots in the region and in Palestine. The U.S. atrocities in Lebanon and the occupied territories have been relegated to oblivion, and the question that arises is whether, with all the bitter experience that the oppressed Muslim and Arab nations have undergone at the hands of the superpowers of the East and West, especially the world-devouring United States, in the past four decades since the usurpation of Palestine, the time has not come to learn a lesson and not permit the heads of these nations to continue their subservience any further. Instead of reconciliation and compromise with the bloodthirsty wolf the United States, and despotic Israel, its illegitimate progeny, they should rely on God, on themselves, and on their God-given strength to reinforce their determination and shatter the fangs and talons of the United States, halt its colonial avarice, and prevent its intervention in the destiny of the Islamic countries. "Fight ye the chiefs of unfaith, for their oaths are nothing to them." [Koranic verse]

Majles Refutes Reports on British MP's Visit

LD1506165290 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—A member of the Majles Administrative Council has refuted reports that a team from the British Parliamnet or the Canterbury Church was invited to visit the Islamic Republic. "The so-called invitation never came up at the Council, which is responsible to review all such (British) requests," Morteza Albiri said last night.

He said, suppose if such an invitation was made by some deputy, it does not mean that the Majles has sent it, and is therefore, not valid. Albiri was responding to the press secretary of the Canterbury church John Lyttle, who was quoted by the British daily INDEPENDENT on Thursday [14 Jun[illegible] saying that he has been invited by Iranian officials, and would visit Iran with a delegation in late June.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry, reached by telephone on Thursday and Friday, has not yet confirmed the INDEPENDENT's report.

The British daily did not name the 'Iranian officials' referred to by Lyttle, but said a group led by Peter Temple-Morris, head of Iranian affairs at the British Parliament, had called on the envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury to postpone his visit, and let a higher ranking delegation undertake the mission.

Velayati Leaves for ECO Meeting in Pakistan

LD1706145790 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati departed for Pakistan Sunday to attend the 1st foreign ministerial session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Before his departure, Velayati termed the session a "useful step towards advancing the common goals of the three member states," and hoped the session would be held at a higher level in the future. He cited religion as "the most important factor binding the three countries to one another."

Flying along with Velayati in the same aircraft, were six members of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (formerly the Iran-based 9-party coalition), three independent Afghan leaders and burhanuddin rabbani, who leads the Peshawar-based Jamiyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan.

Islamic Unity Party spokesman Hojat ol-Eslam Mazari said that party leaders were visiting Pakistan to meet the 7-party Pashto alliance and other groups based in Pakistan. He expressed hope that during the upcoming session, mujahidin leaders could obtain a concensus on solution to the Afghan issue. Among topics to be discussed by Mujahidin leaders in Pakistan is the holding of elections in Afghanistan and working out a united stance on the Afghan issue, he said. Terming the superpowers' meddlings in Afghanistan as "futile" Hoj. Mazari pointed out, "Neither a Washington-Moscow accord nor U.S. intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs are able to solve the problems of that country."

Paper Condemns Turkish Press Over 'Distortions'

LD1706171190 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—The Persian daily "ABRAR" took the Turkish press to task today for publishing insulting articles and distortions about the Islamic Republic, in a bid to stem the tide of Islamic awareness sweeping across Muslim Turkey. The editorial also rejected allegations of the Turkish press that foreign elements were instigating Muslims in Turkey.

However, it added, "without doubt it is natural for the Islamic revolution in Iran which has inspired Muslims in far-reaching parts of the world, to have greater spiritual impacts on Muslims in the neighbourhood."

ABRAR said the Turkish Muslim people who, for years, had no freedom of expression under the Laic system, now have the opportunity to benefit from the situation and fill the religious and spiritual vacuum of the past.

The morning daily gave the stick to the Turkish press for printing "immodest obscene pictures which are at variance with Islamic values in a bid to pervert the public,

the youths in particular." It asked, "how come that despite an intensive anti-Islamic campaign University students who are among the most intellectual layers of the Turkish society, stood against the anti-Hijab policy and defended the Islamic code of dressing for women as a vehicle for returning to Islam and expressing hatred against the Laic system? How come that despite having strong means and ample possibilities the Turkish press has had no success in its efforts to remove Islam from the Turkish society."

The Turkish press, the paper noted, must first answer these questions and only then rave about foreign elements having hands in spreading protests throughout Turkey against the Laic system.

"The problem of the Turkish press is that it does not see the light of Islam in the Turkish society, because its blinkered eyesight is glued towards the West," added ABRAR.

ABRAR advised the Turkish press to cast off its Western spectacles and start serving the Turkish people by helping them see the light of Islam, and by taking stands in their favour.

Press Attache Accuses Turkish Envoy of Smuggling

LD1706202990 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Ankara, June 17, IRNA—Priceless antiques were seized from Turkish charge d'affairs in Tehran Mofit Ozdas, as he attempted to smuggle them out of the country 20 days ago, announced the press attache of the Iranian Embassy here today.

Scared of the growing Islamic awareness in Turkey, the Turkish press has of late indulged in a smear campaign against the Islamic Republic, and on Saturday [16 June] it alleged that Ozdas' was manhandled and his personal belongings confiscated by IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Crops] officers.

The press attache said that some of the articles seized from the Turkish diplomat date back 850 years ago, and include sixteen glass and porcelein vases, an engraved tray belonging to the Qajarid Dynasty, five antique pistols, barrels of 14 other antique pistols, a large tray, a big cooper pot, a small bowl and a chandelier.

"If the (Turkish) charge d'affaires claims that he purchased the antiques from a person or persons, he can well announce the names of the sellers and the place of the deal," he said.

Contacted by the Turkish daily CUMHURIYET, the attache refuted reports that the Iranian ambassador in Ankara was summoned by the Turkish Foreign Ministry. The truth is, he added, "Mohammad Reza Baqeri personally went to the Turkish Foreign Ministry to protest the smuggling bid."

The Iranian press attache expressed surprise over the distortion of the truth by the Turkish press, and said the Islamic Republic's reaction would have been far more severe if another country's diplomat was involved, whereas Ozdas is still carrying out his job at the Turkish Embassy in Tehran. He said no response has yet been received from the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and that Iran wants Turkish cooperation for the arrest of the antique smugglers.

Meanwhile, Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Omer Akbel was called to the Foreign Ministry and to hear the protest against the breach of diplomatic norms by the charge d'affaires Mofit Ozdas.

Velayati Receives Pakistani Muslim Leader

LD1606124490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sajed 'Ali Naqavi, leader of the Pakistani Shi'as, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, said: We consider the presence of the holy Islamic system in your country as potential power for the world of Islam and we are prepared for any kind of self-sacrifice for the growth and power of the Muslims.

According to the Central News Unit, the leader of the Pakistani Shi'as said: Unfortunately, at present Wahhabi agents supported by foreign sources, are engaged in an extensive propaganda campaign against the Shi'as. Their plan, in resorting to such actions, is to create discord among the Pakistani Muslims and weaken the true path of Islam.

Referring to the problem of Kashmir, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Naqavi expressed regret and concern about the continuation of the Indian government's heavy-handed suppression and the killing of Muslims in Kashmir.

In that meeting Mr. Velayati also pointed to the conspiracies hatched by the Muslims' enemies, and placed emphasis on the necessity for creation of unity among Muslims and better cooperation between the region's Muslim nations, and in particular between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan.

New Exchange Rate for Importers Announced

LD1606101890 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Dollar will be sold to importers by the banking system as of Saturday [16 June] at the rate of 1,270 rials, said a statement by the Bank Melli. The bank is to release the rate daily in accordance with the fluctuation of the market.

This specific scheme is to be used by importers for importing some 400 items of selected goods.

As it was announced last week the new regulation will apply only to those special government-issued licences

for import of goods. Special branches of Bank Saderat are to handle the new scheme.

Hajj Resolution Accuses Saudis of 'Incompetence'

LD1506211290 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Accra, June 15, IRNA—The two-day international seminar on the Hajj here ended Thursday [14 June] with a resolution strongly accusing the Saudi regime of gross incompetence in the maintenance of the holy places of Islam and in the organization of the annually pilgrimage to Mecca. The participants made up of Islamic scholars, university lecturers, students and journalist, described the Saudi regime as an imperialist puppet.

"There must be a serious campaign to expose their true nature and immoral activities. Muslims must form Islamic movements in all their places of stay for the purposes of bringing about an Islamic revolution", the 8-point resolution said in part.

The participants condemned the quota system, restricting the number of pilgrims of each country, introduced by the Saudi regime, saying the action was a violation of the sacred laws of Islam. They condemned the killing of over 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians on July 31, 1987 during the Hajj.

They paid glowing tribute to the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Imam Khomeyni for his revival of true islam and called on ulemas to emulate him. The participants praised the Islamic Republic leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i for keeping up the good works of the late imam.

The participants were from Iran, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Hague Tribunal Settles Claim Against AMOCO

LD1606132990 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—The Hague-based Iran-U.S. claims tribunal Friday endorsed agreements reached between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the U.S. Oil Company Amoco Corp. on payment of dlrs. 600 million to the latter for settlement of all disputes between the two parties. In a press release here today the NIOC said that the total payment consisted of two settlements, a dlrs. 540 million settlement between AMOCO subsidiary AMOCO-Iran Oil company and the NIOC over the U.S. company's expropriated share in an oil field in the Persian Gulf. The remaining dlrs. 60 million involves settlement of a case by AMOCO International Finance Co. over its share in a petroleum products plant on Kharg Island. AMOCO had filed a dlrs. 3.68-billion claim at the tribunal for both cases.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the subsequent expulsion of foreign oil companies from Iran, these companies filed various claims against Iran and the NIOC. They demanded large compensations, claiming that their investments were expropriated by the Iranian government.

In 1981, the Islamic Revolution Council declared all such oil contracts nul and void and assigned a commission to investigate relevant claims. With the setting up of the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal at the Hague the same year, all such claims were referred to this body for settlement. The total oil claims referred to the tribunal exceed 130, among which AMOCO, claiming to hold a 50 percent partnership in oil activities in the Persian Gulf, was the biggest case.

AMOCO claimed that the 30-year-old oil contract authorized it to six percent of the total output from four oil reservoirs in the Persian Gulf which, together with the added interest rate amount to about 3.3 billion dollars. In addition, AMOCO claiming a 50 percent share in a petrochemical plant on Kharq Island which is now totally in the possession of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NIPC), filed a separate 380 million dollar suit.

Parallel with its negotiations with AMOCO, the NIOC has held talks with other members of the former consortium such as British Petroleum, Dutch Shell, French CFP, and American Exxon, Chevron, Gulf, Texaco, and others. To date, agreements have been worked out with 91.4 percent of the shareholders of the former consortium and contracts have been signed in this connection. Regarding partnership, settlements have been reached with various firms including the Italian Agip, Indian Hydrocarbons, American Phillips, Union, and Morphy and the French ELF. Today, it can be said that except for two members of the consortium and two partnership cases there remains no outstanding oil file at the Hague tribunal.

Aqazadeh Reviews Oil Production Plans

LD1706112190 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Iran's oil production capacity is to reach 4.5 million barrels per day in the next two years, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters here Sunday [17 June].

"However, Iran will abide by the production quota of 3.14 million BPD [barrels per day] set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said. This includes the 20,000 barrels reduction for Iran decided in the recent meeting of the OPEC market monitoring committee, he said.

The recent reduction mainly applied to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Aqazadeh expressed regrets that countries such as Kuwait and UAE have failed to abide by their quotas thus upsetting the oil market.

The minister added that the discount of 70 cents per barrel given to Japan by the Saudis is another reason for instability in the market. However, he added, the present situation is temporary.

According to Aqazadeh Kuwait practically opposes any price rises in a bid to keep the price low to make other sources of energy uneconomical.

He rejected existence of any problem on the way of the Iranian oil exports and said Iran's exports have never fallen below the quota. "We are at the peak of our exports now," he stressed.

The ministry's policy has been to have a "physical presence" at the market, he said adding that Iran owns the third largest oil tanker fleet in the world in terms of capacity and can deliver oil directly to the consumer, which is economical. In a bid to have active presence in the consumer market and deliver the oil directly to the customers, Iran has opened representative offices in Rotterdan, Singapore and the Caribbean region, he added.

As for oil revenues, he said the income anticipated by the ministry for the first quarter of the current Iranian year (started March 21) will be earned.

On reconstruction of the 'Azarpad' and 'T' jetties of the southern Kharq Island, he said the French ETPM (Entrepose Pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes) has won the $217.5 million-contract which was put on an international tender. Out of the sum the ETPM is to pay $12.5 million to Iran's Ministry of Economics and Finance in the form of tax. ETPM will complete the task in several stages in 27 months.

ETPM, which initially built the jetties in the 1970s, will work in cooperation with the Iranian Company (SADR) and the Italian company, Societe Micoperi.

According to another $18 million-contract the South Korean Sang Yong Company will reconstruct oil reservoirs in the Kharq Island to be completed in several stages, the first stage to be finished after six months.

On volume of oil reserves in the Caspian Sea, he said the reserves are completely independent of those of the Soviet Union. "So far 40 fields have been spotted in the area for exploitation of which 100 wells should be dug." He said the reserves in the area are estimated at some three billion barrels.

Aqazadeh said ministry will invite foreign investors in the field of gas and petrochemicals during its first five-year development plan. "We hope to be a major gas exporter as of 1995," he said.

He also expressed hope that the first unit of the petrochemical complex of Imam Khomeyni Port (former Iran-Japan petrochemical complex) will become operational in the coming months. At present the Iranian experts are busy finishing up the unit which is to produce one million tons of liquid petrol gas (LPG) a day.

He added that the remaining units will become operational by the French and Dutch companies which have won the contracts in international tenders.

Velayati Receives Message From Omani Minister

JN1606134590 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, [Omani] minister of state for foreign affairs, has sent a written message to Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The message was delivered by 'Abd-al-'Alim Bin-Mustahayl Rakhyud, Oman's ambassador in Tehran, during a meeting with Dr. 'Ali Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, on Thursday [14 June].

Press Reaction to Opposition Leaders' Arrest

Paper Denounces 'Fifth Column Agents'

LD1606114390 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday noted that the arrest of some members of the unlawful "Association for Defense of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian People" announced by the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor last Thursday [14 June] was a move long awaited by the revolutionary forces. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in an editorial titled: "The Fifth Column" further added that although the measure is praiseworthy, it was delayed.

The Persian press reported Thursday afternoon that on the orders of the Islamic revolution prosecutor of Tehran several members of the illegal group, the so called "Association for Defence of Freedom" have been arrested and their further activities are banned. The arrest came after constant, organized and clandestine contacts of these people with foreign circles for the past sevral years, the papers reported. They further quoted a statement by the prosecutor's office that since its creation and especially during the Iraqi-imposed war the group functioned as the fifth column serving objectives of the enemies of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed that the prosecutor's office or any other legal body which is in charge of investigating offenses of the splinter groups and agents subservient to foreigners, should never delay taking a decisive stand against traitors. "Those who had acted as the enemy's fifth column during the war time deserve no mercy or leniency. The Islamic republic has sufferred many wounds because of being lenient to its enemies," commented the article.

Past experience proves that having mercy on agents serving interests of foreigners is not compatible with the logic of the revolution which undertakes the grave responsibility of safeguarding interests of the nation, wrote the paper.

The file of those arrested and their colleagues, the editorial said, is full of documents proving their treason against the nation, turning their back to the aspirations of the revolution and their attempt to bring back the diabolic rule to Iran. Meanwhile, it added, Western propaganda fuss over the event further indicates that the arrest of a number of fifth column agents has become a cause of concern for international arrogance.

The paper concluded by saying that decisive attitude of the officials in handling the case will make masters of these agents abroad to further realize that the Islamic republic is determined to preserve principles of the revolution. "Those thinking the opposite are day-dreaming."

Paper on Dealing With 'Traitors'

NC1606121390 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 16 (AFP) - Associates of former liberal premier Mehdi Bazargan recently arrested in Iran were seeking to restore the monarchy and should be treated without compassion, an Iranian newspaper said Saturday [16 June]. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, close to hardliners here, said it would be "incompatible with the logic of the revolution" to "take pity on those who operated as a fifth column" against Iran during the eight-year war with Iraq.

"The files of those arrested were full of evidence of treason against the people and attempts to favour a return of the imperial regime," the paper added, saying "we should not hesitate to deal firmly with such traitors."

The Iranian authorities announced Thursday [14 June] the arrests of several opposition activists belonging to Mr. Bazargan's Association to Defend the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian People. Among those detained were the former premier's son, 'Abd ol-'Ali Bazargan, the association's president 'Ali Ardalan, and about 10 figures from Mr. Bazargan's interim cabinet set up after the overthrow of the shah in February 1979. They were accused by the prosecutor's office of "having had secret contacts with foreign circles and of having acted as a fifth column in the interests of the enemies of the Islamic revolution" during the Gulf war.

Iran and Iraq agreed to a cease-fire in the conflict in August 1988.

According to the British press, Mr. Bazargan was among 90 liberal figures who last month sent an open letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemning what they described as the "new tyranny" in Iran. He established the association in March 1986 along with several liberal figures after resigning as prime minister in November 1979 to protest the seizure of the U.S. embassy here. He still lives in Iran.

Feda'iyan-e Khalq Condemns Arrests

LD1606232790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Statement by the Central Committee of the Iranian Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization, Majority Wing—read by announcer]

[Text] We hereby condemn the arrest of those discontent with the regime and the banning of the Society for the Defense of Freedom.

Dear compatriots! According to reliable reports and information, on 12 June, a number of the country's political dignitaries who had voiced their opposition to the suppression of political freedom were wilfully arrested. Among those arrested were: 'Ezatollah Shahabi, 'Abd ol-'Ali Bazargan, Mohammad Hosayn Bani-Asadi, Nur-'Ali Tabandeh, Reza Sadr, and Farhad Behbahani, all of whom were among the signatories to the published open letter addressed to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which recently was signed by 90 Iranian liberals, in opposition to the regime's policies and the absence of freedom for political parties and the media. These arrests were confirmed by the regime's official news agency only in the last minutes of 14 June. According to that report, the arrests were carried out on the order of Tehran's Islamic Revolution prosecutor. In accordance with that order, the Society for the Defense of Freedom also has been declared illegitimate and banned from further activity. The official reason for the arrests was given as their establishment of clandestine contacts with foreign sources.

The Central Committee of the Iranian Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization, Majority Wing, severely condemns these repressive actions by the regime, declares its categorical support for the demands for freedom as written in the aforementioned letter, and calls for an end to the arrests and the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested.

In addition to those arrests, the regime's hypocritical leaders, in the wake of the departure of the UN special delegation from Iran, once again, have engaged in the bestial torture of political prisoners, such as Noreddin-e Kianuri, and at least eight of the incarcerated women whose lives, according to an Amnesty International report, are in serious danger. Such repressive actions are taking place at a time when the interior minister has shamelessly ascribed the delay in legitimizing some political parties apparently to the fact that they so far have failed to complete their documents and application forms. If the regime's leaders really were concerned about the people and the country, they would have heeded to the people's calls for freedom and the just demands written in the aforementioned open letter, instead of intensifying their campaign of repression and suffocation. However, the regime's leaders have taken a different course. In response to the demands for the freedom of political parties, the freedom of the press and free elections—which were the just and rightful aspirations of the February revolution—Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has described all his political opponents as

political losers, reiterating that there is no place for them in Iran. The continuation of that policy will lead to a destiny worse than that of the Shah's Rastakiz-style regime, which serves as a presentiment. [Rastakhiz, meaning resurrection, was the only legally active political party during the Shah's reign]

Dear compatriots! The leaders of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult], who in the course of the past 11 years have established their authority through the atrocious and ruthless killing of tens of thousands of their opponents, have brought the Iranian people nothing but misery and affliction. The destruction of the country as a result of eight years of a futile war; the reduction in income and national productivity by half; the brain-drain of more than 3 million cultured, expert, and educated Iranians from the country; the humiliation and abuse of women to the saturation point; the practice of torture dating back to the era of barbarism and jahaliya [ignorance—a reference to the pre-Islamic era] and tens of other painful afflictions, all are fruits of the Iran-destroying policies of the regime's leaders. This black record calls on any proud and free Iranian to seek a solution.

The Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran considers the protests and criticisms mentioned in the letter written by those 90 individuals, as well as any other letters written in its support signed by political activists residing abroad, to be one and the same with its own protests and criticisms, as well as those of all freedom-seeking forces in the country, with regard to the current predicament in the country. The calls for the freedom of parties, the press, and elections constitute the aspirations of the February revolution and of the entire Iranian people. The leaders of the regime should be aware that the course they have taken will lead to nothing other than their own collapse and death. The world is striving toward freedom for all its nations, toward the day on which all freedom-seekers will unite in their struggle, disintegrating the despotism of the velayat-e faqih, and replacing it with liberty.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Iranian Feda'iyan Khalq Organization, Majority Wing.

[Dated] 15 June 1990.

ABRAR Urges Death Penalty

NC1706110290 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 17 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper Sunday urged the death sentence for associates of former liberal premier Mehdi Bazargan, accusing them of being Western mercenaries intent on overthrowing the Islamic government. The Abrar daily, asking the authorities to "judge and punish" the dozen opposition activists arrested last Tuesday [12 June], said their sentence should be "the revolutionary verdict"—a fundamentalist term for capital punishment.

The paper described Mr. Bazargan's associates as "Western political and cultural mercenaries" and "free-masons who entered Iranian politics claiming to defend Western-style freedom... while trying to overthrow the sacred regime."

Abrar condemned the decision to free one of the detainees, 'Ezatollah Shahabi, a few hours after authorities arrested him and other members of Mr. Bazargan's Association to Defend the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian people. Those detained also included the former premier's son, 'Abd ol-'Ali Bazargan, the association's president 'Ali Ardalan and figures from Mr. Bazargan's interim cabinet set up after the overthrow of the shah in February 1979. [passage omitted]

Demands Punishment for 'Fifth Column'

LD1706125890 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday urged "speedy measures" from the judiciary for punishment of several members of the fifth column in Iran, whose arrest was disclosed by the Islamic revolution prosecutor last Thursday [14 June]. In a front page commentary 'ABRAR' wrote that "Western propaganda fuss over the arrest, and the West's support for the self-styled Association for Defense of Freedom and Sovereignty of Iranian People, further revealed the covert link between the two sides."

The daily laid bare the activities of grouplets which acted as the enemies' fifth column in Iran throughout the eight years of sacred defense, and called on revolutionary institutions of the judiciary to bring to trial all such outlaw grouplets including the so-called "freedom movement." It questioned the grouplet's claim to call itself "the defender of the people's sovereignty" while it fights divine values and its members receive instructions from their ring leaders in Washington. Led by the great Satan, stressed Abrar, the grouplet schemed for the decadent liberal culture and ultimately the subserviency of the Iranian people to the West.

"They tried to deceive the people, and their real intention was to do away with the Islamic Republic and rehabilitate the corrupt Western culture in Iran," it said. Therefore, the paper suggested, the judiciary should boldly tackle the case, "far from any fear of the poisonous Western propaganda," and announce its revolutionary verdict against the grouplet.

"This is the heartfelt desire of the Hezbollah people and is also in the interest of the Islamic Republic," concluded ABRAR.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Khorasan Province

LD1406123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was welcomed on arrival in Mashad this morning on his visit to the blessed shrine of his Holiness Imam Reza—peace be

upon him—during which he will meet people from Khorasan. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] [correspondent] Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived today in holy Mashhad at the start of his tour of Khorasan Province, which will last a few days. After the official welcome ceremonies, he set off for the blessed shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him. On arrival at Mashhad airport, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi—representative of vali-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult] and supervisor of the sacred perimeter of Razavi [shrine of Imam Reza], Ayatollah Shirazi, Friday prayers leader of Mashhad, the governor-general of Khorasan province, a few Majles deputies from the province, a group of clerics, executive officials, and some commanders of military and security forces.

After visiting the blessed shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza—peace be upon him—Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the meeting of the province's committee in charge of planning. I should add that during this visit, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is accompanied by the ministers of Construction Jihad, agriculture, and justice, as well the vice presidential advisor in the Supreme Council of National Security, as well as the secretary of that council, the head of the secretariat in charge of deprived areas, deputies from the Ministry of Housing, and the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force.

On arrival in Mashhad, the president described the aims of his trip to Khorasan province in an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit. He said:

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. I had been wishing to spend a few minutes by the blessed shrine of the eighth imam, like all the other lovers of family of imams. Praise be to God, we have now found this opportunity to pay this visit. Of course meeting the people and discussing the problems of this province constitute some of our other duties, which God willing we will carry out. I will also travel to other parts of Khorasan Province. I would have liked to travel to the northern and southern parts of the province, however, it bacame clear that we would not be able to go to all those places. Therefore, in this trip we will visit some areas, and in future trips we will go to some other areas. [end recording]

Comments on Muslim Soviet Republics

LD1406184690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in Mashhad: The policy we have adopted to create a balance is completely successful, so that we have been able to reduce the rate of inflation from 33 percent in last Farvardin [March 1989], to 4.9 percent in the same month this year.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking this afternoon during an administrative session regarding Khorasan, at the Dar al-Zuhd [House of Piety] at Imam Reza's shrine. He described Khorasan as a province with a acceptable combination of natural resources with a historical background.

Regarding the existing situation, which is improving, he said: If, during the next five or six years, we work in accordance with a correct program, and unwanted incidents do not distract us, we will be able to have a prosperous and independent country. [passage omitted]

Referring to the fact that, geographically, Khorasan Province is a cul de sac, because of the situation in Afghanistan and the USSR, he said: The situation of our northern neighbor has changed. Consequently we intend to connect the country to international roads. Therefore, if we were to establish ties with Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics, Khorasan province has a unique situation and would act as a springboard. [passage omitted]

Comments on Revival of Islam

NC1506083090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a detailed speech to cheers from a large gathering of the Muslim and committed people of Mashhad at the Imam Khomeyni Hall of the holy shrine of Imam Reza. He described the country's situation and the significant position of the Islamic revolution in the world.

Referring to the year since the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Contrary to the enemies' expectations, we are proud today that we have been able to preserve the path of the imam for history, for the imam's children, and for future generations, as was fit for this path.

Referring to the appropriate choice made by the Assembly of Experts in selecting His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as an aware, pious, committed, revolutionary, and experienced leader possessing the world's glories, he said: The revolution is continuing on its path at the same pace as in the first years, and we are now witnessing the presence and expansion of the revolution and of the idea of Islamic rule in the entire world and in the Islamic world. The president added: The Islamic revolution has mellowed many times more in the world today and has more followers.

Referring to the Islamic spirit in Afghanistan, the Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics, and Lebanon, he said: As a proof of the expansion of the wave of Islamic spirit, we can name what has happened in Algeria in the victory of the Islamic Front in the Algerian elections which received an outstanding number of votes without having considerable facilities.

The president then continued by describing the Islamic Republic as the seat of the Islamic world and added: If they were to allow free elections anywhere in the world today, the Muslims would win.

The president then referred to the liberal spirit which has evolved among various nations, particularly after the important events in the eastern world and stated: Today, in countries under absolute oppression such as Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Tunisia, the people are determined to have a hand in their country's fate. That is why the conspiracies of world blasphemy are now primarily concentrated on keeping our nation poor. The most evil deed done against the revolution today is for them not to allow our country to reach a suitable economic position.

The president then referred to the country's potential in its human resources, education, clerics, basiji [mobilized] youths, families of martyrs, and other resources, and told the people: We must prove that we are as strong and firm in the arena of construction as we were when we overthrew the shah's regime and ousted America from our country and when we emerged victorious and successful from the most oppressive war in history. The effects of this success are now clearly obvious.

In conclusion, the president listed the potentials of Khorasan Province and named the province as the axis for the expansion of Islam in the East. He expressed hopes that with the help of the holy shrine of Imam Reza and under the directives of the esteemed leadership of the revolution, the people of Khorasan will tap their strong religious seminary and their extremely good university forces and thus be able to score many material and moral successes.

Before the president's speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] and the custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza, welcomed the president and expressed the Khorasan people's readiness to cooperate with the government and to implement Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's programs.

Continues Visit 15 June

LD1506123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, continuing his tour of Khorasan Province, together with an accompanying delegation, visited towns of Dargaz, Shirvan, and Quchan and the tribal areas of that provine today and at a gathering of the people called on them to cooperate better with the government to remove deprivation. We draw your attention to our colleague's report:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president and the accompanying delegation, continuing their visit to Khorasan province, attended a gathering of the people of Dargaz. In his remarks the president stressed the importance of communication routes and their effects on the region's economy. He also placed emphasis on the attention of the officials of the province to the establishment of appropriate communication routes within the town and with other parts of the province. He further urged the officials of the province to prepare themselves for performing their cultural and Islamic duties regarding the wishes and the will of the Muslim people of the Soviet republics.

Mr. Hashemi added: Soon a customs office will be established through which you can expand your links with the north. In your new encounter, you should be prepared to perform your cultural duty toward a Muslim generation who for decades was kept away from Islam.

The president this morning also visited the tribal regions of that province, on the country's north-east borders. The tribal areas on the north of Khorasan province are among the most deprived tribal regions and the presence of the country's highest executive official there brought an incredibly happy sensation among the people of the region. [passage omitted]

Emphasizes Islamic Law for Muslims

LD1506132290 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan, June 15, IRNA)—The president said today that Iran is determined to see Islam as the law governing the Muslim world, and "this means export of the Islamic Revolution for us."

The confirmation of the idea, said Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in Algeria's municipal elections this week.

Noting that the western world considers what it calls Islamic "fundmentalism" as the "greatest threat" to its vested interests, the president said the only remaining alternative for the West is to attack the core of the world Muslims, that is the Islamic Republic. However, the West will not resort again to its unsuccessful methods of coups and terrorism, he said, "but its mischiefs are now chiefly economic, designed to pressure the people."

On the other hand, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the enemies of Islam, will try to imply that Islam is only powerful enough to overthrow regimes and destroy, and not to construct.

Duties of New Security Guard Corps Outlined

LD1706133490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The Majles deputies have approved the duties of the security guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran as executive officers of the judiciary. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report on today's Majles open session.

[Unidentified correspondent] This morning's Majles open session was chaired by Mr. Karrubi. [passage omitted]

During the session debate continued on the bill on the merger of the Gendarmerie, the [Islamic Revolution] Committee and the police, and the formation of the Islamic Republic Security Guards. After debating 20

clauses of the bill, proposed amendments by deputies to some clauses were ratified. Debate is to continue in the next open session.

According to Clause 8, Article 4, of the bill, the legal duties of the security force personnel, as executive officers of the juriciary, include: the fight against narcotics, contraband, forbidden deeds [monkerat], and corruption; crime prevention and detection; inspection and investigation; preserving evidence of crimes; arresting the accused and criminals, and preventing their escape or going into hiding; and enforcing and carrying out judicial verdicts. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Minister Asks India To Respond to Talks Proposal

BK1606113390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has expressed the hope that India would give a positive response to Pakistan's proposal for foreign secretaries level talks to discuss the central issue that threatens peace and security in the region, including massing of forces on our borders. He was speaking during general discussion on the new federal budget in the National Assembly today in which 11 speakers took part in the morning session.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that India would engage in a meaningful dialogue to address the root cause of fundamental issue of Kashmir and seek its just and peaceful solution. He said the Indian Government would realize the futility of the use of force to suppress the struggle of the Kashmiri people. He was confident that the international community would exert influence on India to end repression in occupied Kashmir.

Defends Government's Kashmir Policy

BK1606155990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while speaking during general discussion on the new budget in the National Assembly today, expressed the hope that India would give a positive response to Pakistan's proposal for foreign secretaries level talks to discuss the central issue that threatens peace and security in the region, including massing of Indian forces on Pakistan borders. The foreign minister said that India should engage in a meaningful dialogue to address the root cause of the fundamental issue of Kashmir and seek its just and peaceful solution. He hoped that the Indian Government would realize the futility of the use of force to supress the struggle of the Kashmiri people. He was confident that the international community would exert influence on India to end repression in occupied Kashmir.

The foreign minister reiterated the government's firm and unflinching commitment to its stand on Kashmir and said in no circumstances would it back down from this position. He said Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to the fate of Kashmiri people and will continue to render all moral and political support to the people of occupied Kashmir.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan referred to the concrete measures taken by Pakistan to get political and diplomatic support on Kashmir. Referring to the prime minister's eight-nation visit recently, he said all these countries gave their unstinted support to Pakistan's principled stand about a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue and expressed complete solidarity with Pakistan.

About the postponement of the foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, the foreign minister said the meeting was postponed due to factors that have no connection with the Kashmir issue. The foreign minister was sure that the conference would reaffirm its support for the just objective of the Kashmiri people and independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan.

On Afghanistan, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan is determined to seek a political solution to this problem and its highest priority is to see that 3.5 million Afghan refugees return to their homes.

The foreign minister also referred to criticism by U.S. Congressman Mr. Stephen Solarz and said that because he is the chairman of the congressional subcommittee on Asia-Pacific affairs, he is important to us. He added that it is essential for us to maintain close links with him and try to persuade him not to be antagonistic.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan described the opposition members' criticism of the government's Kashmir policy as unwarranted and assured the house that Pakistan will never compromise on the cardinal principles of its foreign policy and national interests.

Further on Development of Sindh Policy

Army Judicial Role Ruled Out

BK1506011090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1830 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Karachi, June 14 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has ruled out judicial powers for army troops deployed in Pakistan's troubled Sindh Province, officials said Thursday [14 June].

"The army has been inducted for the maintenance of law and order ... so the question of obliging it with blanket judicial powers does not arise," provincial Information Minister Navid Qamar said.

The constitution allows the army to arrest terrorists and other anti-social elements but confers no judicial powers, he said, adding that Ms. Bhutto has maintained that the army would cooperate with the civil administration. But a high-level meeting Wednesday [13 June] in Islamabad also took stock of the "desire of some of the elements in

the army for judicial powers under Article 245," under which the authority of military forces acting "in aid of civil power" can supersede civil jurisdiction, he said.

The demand has met stiff opposition not only from the Sindh's provincial government but also from Ms. Bhutto herself, as it provides for judicial powers such as special military courts.

The army commanders maintain that they cannot be effective without such powers, as criminals they hand over to civil authorities could be released because of "political pressure" or bribes.

Conferring judicial powers on the army is also legally problematic, experts said. A 1977 high court judgment ruled that by setting up military courts for trial of a large number of offences, the armed forces were "not acting in aid of the civil power but in suppression thereof."

Legal experts said that apart from some provisions in the criminal procedure code on dispersing unlawful assemblies, no laws empowered the armed forces to carry out civil administrative duties. Vesting judicial powers on the army would be a setback for the ruling Pakistan People's Party, which has come under sharp criticism for the deteriorating situation in Sindh, political analysts said. Such a move would also further erode support for Ms. Bhutto in her home province, they added.

Constitution Invoked

BK1506101690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Jun 90 p 1

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, June 14: The government has finally been able to resolve the contentious issue of how to deploy armed forces in the aid of civil administration to restore law and order and to nab outlaws, terrorists, dacoits [as published] and kidnappers in Sindh.

Since the arrival of armed forces in Sindh a controversy had erupted regarding how to deploy them within the constitutional bindings and framework. One of the views was to invoke Article 245 of the Constitution and to suspend the execution of Article 199 of the Constitution to keep out the writ jurisdiction of the superior courts.

After long discussions the Law Ministry has successfully been able to invoke Article 147 of the Constitution under which the armed forces will operate in the province in the aid of the civil administration.

Informed sources told the Muslim that after discussions with President and getting his agreement, the Prime Minister issued relevant instructions and her consent to the provincial government on Wednesday [13 June] for the implementation of Article 147 of the Constitution, under which the army authorities would be able to launch their clean-up operation in Sindh without discrimination under the Constitutional umbrella.

Another source claims that the armed forces have some reservations about this option as they want more powers to deal with the situation independently.

Bhutto Involvement Denied

BK1606154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] An official spokesman has denied the report published in a local English daily yesterday, which alleged that the government has decided to deploy the army in Sindh under Section 147 of the Constitution with the consent of the president. Describing the report as misleading, the spokesman categorically stated in Islamabad today that there was no concurrence of any sort with the president to invoke Section 147 of the constitution. He said no one is involved in the government's move in the [word indistinct] matter.

Bhutto Says Situation Improved

BK1506102290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 14—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here on Thursday [14 June] that law and order situation in the country, particularly in Sindh has improved considerably following a series of steps taken by her government.

The Prime Minister who looked confident said she would not let anyone play with the lives of innocent people.

The Prime Minister during her 30-minute exclusive chat with this correspondent, vowed to continue her government's fight against those trying to create hatred among various sections of the society.

Her government, she said, did not feel any threat from any quarter as "things were fully in control."

She mentioned Balochistan, Sindh and Kashmir, saying "didn't you notice the way Almightly God has favoured her government?"

Terming the Opposition role as disappointing, the Prime Minister said some elements have taken it upon themselves to do everything possible to promote hatred and disharmony. However, such tactics, she said would lead them nowhere.

She dispelled the impression of imposition of Governor rule in Sindh saying there was a lot of improvement in the situation over there. Similarly chances of martial law were nil as her democratic government enjoyed absolute support of the masses.

Answering a question, she said those who were promoting discontent and disorder would be brought to justice. "In no way her government would spare such elements, no matter how important they were", she said firmly.

To another question, she said no one would be subjected to a discriminatory treatment, but at the same time her

government would not allow the subversive elements to disrupt peace in the country. Murderers of innocent people would be taken to task, she said.

Her government, she said, would administer justice to people irrespective of their social or political status.

When asked to comment on some reports regarding the Sindh situation, she said firmly that "such reports were part of the Opposition's ugly disinformation campaign against the elected government."

She made it clear that her government did not believe in discriminatory treatment against any section of society. All she wanted was the supremacy of law and the Constitution. "No one would be allowed to subvert peace and harmony in the country", she said.

The Prime Minister said she was awfully hurt by the unfortunate happenings in Sindh in the past which, she said, were a part of the well-planned conspiracy against her government.

Commenting on the Opposition's demand for holding fresh election, she said those demanding election must not forget the fate of their colleagues, the majority of whom suffered a defeat. Without naming COP [Combined Opposition Party] leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, she said such elements also must not forget "the way they won" the election.

She said she was least bothered about the Opposition's disinformation campaign as she firmly believed in the strength of the masses who voted her to power.

Bhutto Accused of Misusing Army

BK1706161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the uncertainty over the powers of the Army deployed in Sindh continues. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has issued a rebuttal to the press reports that he had given his consent for deploying the Army under the control of civil administration in Sindh. This has resulted in speculations that the president is in favor of the Army having unfettered control in dealing with the deteriorating law and order situation.

On the other hand, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is unwilling to give the Army full authority to deal with the situation independently. It may be recalled that the Army was deployed in the Sindh Province in the wake of the recent ethnic violence in which several hundred people were killed. The Army has been demanding a free hand to tackle the situation there.

Meanwhile, the combined opposition has charged the government with using the Army under a well-planned scheme to discredit the forces. Reacting sharply to the Army deployment, the opposition parties have alleged that the Army is being misused for obvious reasons. A prominent leader of the Pakistan People's Party in Sindh, Mr. Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman, who recently revolted against the party, described the troops' deployment in the province as indicative of the government failure. He said the prime minister, Ms. Bhutto, has completely failed and lost the confidence among the people of Sindh.

Army-Government Discord Denied

BK1806030390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi has described as wrong the impression created by some press reports that there is discord between the civil administration and the Army on the constitutional justification in deploying the Army in Sindh.

The spokesman said that this impression is not only untrue, but the motive behind creating it may be to generate confusion and to prevent the law enforcing agencies from discharging their duties effectively, which may slow down the process of normalizing the situation in Sindh.

4,300 Arrested in 3 Weeks

BK1606035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the authorities in Sindh have rounded up over 4,300 persons from all over the province since the flushing-out operations began three weeks ago. The issue regarding the manner of their trial—whether by military or civil courts—is currently being sorted out in Islamabad.

Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, says that despite the good intention of the government, it is reported that the terrorists who have been responsible for recent violence in Karachi and Hyderabad have escaped arrest and that only those involved in petty crimes have been nabbed.

ECO Foreign Minister's Meeting Begins 18 Jun

BK1806084090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] An extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] began in Islamabad today. It aims at revitalizing the organization and strengthening the economic, cultural, trade, and commercial relations among the member countries. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, inaugurated the meeting.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati,nd the Turkish minister, Mr. Isin Celebi, are representing their respective countries at the meeting.

Bhutto Receives Turkish President's Special Message

BK1806154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Turkey has assured Pakistan of its full support for Islamabad's principled stand on the Kashmir issue and

said that it would do its best to help preserve peace and stability in South Asia. The assurance was made in Turkish President Turgut Ozal's special message to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The message was delivered to her by Isin Celebi, the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, in Islamabad today.

The prime minister said that the Pakistani-Turkish relationship constitutes a factor of peace and stability in the Islamic countries and in the region. She asked the Turkish minister to convey her message of goodwill to the president and the prime minister of Turkey.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Calls for Action Against Rebels

BK1506111490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—Opposition parties on Friday [15 June] called for joint action to defeat Tamil rebels who are fighting government troops across Sri Lanka's northeast.

In a statement Friday, they described the fighting in the Tamil-majority northeast between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and troops as "the severest possible threat ever faced by us." The statement said that although the responsibility for the current crisis rests on the "Premadasa government," it was for the government and all parties committed to a democratic Sri Lanka "to defeat the LTTE" to rebuild a free society.

The situation was all the more deplorable because it "could have been avoided if the government had heeded the repeated warnings sounded by the opposition about the true character and intent of the LTTE," it said.

Colombo opened peace talks with the Tigers in April 1989, but the opposition charged that the LTTE was building up arms and preparing for confrontation rather than peace.

Members from four opposition parties signed the statement, including the main Sri Lanka Freedom Party, and LTTE's bitter rivals, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front." The parties said it must be emphasised that the fight against the Tigers was "not a fight of Sinhalese and Moslems against Tamils" but a united fight against "the fascism of the LTTE."

"At this very moment, several hundred police officers, ordered by the government to surrender to the LTTE, are still in captivity," the statement said, adding "we call upon the LTTE to refrain from transgressing all canons of decency and to release them unharmed" immediately.

More than 1,000 policemen are reported to have been taken hostage by the Tigers after they overran at least 25 police stations in five days of fierce fighting in northeastern Sri Lanka.

"Our hearts go out to them (the policemen) and their families for the sufferings, the trials and tribulations they have to undergo and will undergo in the near future," the parties said.

22 LTTE Members, 3 Soldiers Killed During Attack

BK1506112890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Armed Services and the police successfully repulsed attacks on several army camps and police stations, including Kiran, north of Batticaloa, and Kilinochchi. During the attacks on the Kilinochchi army camp, 22 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres had died and a large number injured. The Army lost three soldiers and 12 were injured. The police posts in Tiriyai and Kinniya in the Trincomalee District have been taken over by the LTTE and the policemen have been detained. It has been estimated that about 800 policemen are in the custody of the LTTE.

Delhi Reports 15 Jun Situation, Clashes

BK1506150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The five days of heavy fighting in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka took a new turn today with the reports of ethnic violence in Amparai and Trincomalee towns and the security forces claiming success in recapturing some police stations from the LTTE. Reports reaching Colombo said that a number of people have been killed in riots in Amparai, while several houses were set on fire in Trincomalee with fierce fighting continuing in several places. The LTTE militants also attacked at least four army camps and surrounded another today.

Military officials in Colombo claimed that the Sri Lankan security forces smashed through the LTTE defenses and recaptured all the police stations in Trincomalee and Pottuvil in the east, and Vavuniya and Mannar in the north. They said at least 22 LTTE militants were killed in the counteroffensive by the forces. They also disclosed that in a predawn attack on an Army detachment at Talaimannar, 10 soldiers were killed and 17 security men escaped as the LTTE moved in and took control of the area. The officials could not say how many police stations are still in the control of the LTTE.

Rebels Meet Minister, Set Cease-Fire Conditions

BK1506162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The five days of heavy fighting in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka took a new turn today with reports of ethnic violence in Amparai and Trincomalee towns. [passage omitted]

While the situation is grim all over the province, the chief government negotiator and justice minister, Mr. A.C.S.

Hameed, held a three-hour crucial meeting with the LTTE leaders today on bringing about a cease-fire. The LTTE leaders are reported to have laid down conditions for the cease-fire. A LTTE spokesman in Jaffna told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Colombo on the phone that the LTTE will be anxiously awaiting the government's response while they will continue their fight. Meanwhile, the death toll in the fighting is reported to have gone up to 270. Five opposition parties in Sri Lanka have expressed concern over the situation.

Rebels Vow To Continue Fighting Government Troops

BK1606090090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrillas have vowed to continue their bloody fight with security forces and accused the Colombo government of breaking its promises, press reports said here Saturday [16 June].

The political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) currently battling troops and police in the island's northeast, said in a statement issued in the south Indian city of Madras that the "war" was imposed on them by Colombo. "The present war was not begun by the LTTE but was in response to the continuing provocations from the Sinhala police and the hurdles placed on the functioning of the Tigers," the Madras-based HINDU quoted the statement as saying.

The LTTE political wing, the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), said Colombo had broken its promise to withdraw Sinhalese policemen from the Tamil-majority northeast after Indian troops withdrew from the region in March. The PFLT also accused President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government of going back on its word to "sizeably reduce" the presence of security forces in the northeast and setting up what it called hurdles against the Tigers. [passage omitted]

Press reports here said New Delhi had decided to observe a "studied silence" over the issue, but there was no immediate confirmation of these reports.

Hundreds of people, including police and soldiers, have died in six days of bloody fighting in Sri Lanka.

LTTE Reportedly Attacks Army Base in Jaffna

BK1606090790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The chief political negotiator of the Sri Lankan Government, Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, has returned to northern Jaffna for more talks with the LTTE rebels on halting the continued fighting in the north and the east of the country.

Mr. Hameed earlier briefed President Premadasa on his talks yesterday during which the rebels are reported to have presented cease-fire proposals. A government statement said both sides have agreed that every step should be taken to restore normalcy as soon as possible.

In the latest fighting, the LTTE is said to have attacked the Army base in Jaffna and captured government positions elsewhere. The Army is reported to have launched a counter offensive and regained a number of positions in the east of the country.

Army Strikes Rebel Bases as Peace Talks Proceed

BK1606095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 16 (AFP)—Thousands of Sri Lankan security forces Saturday [16 June] struck back at Tamil guerrillas in the island's northeast where nearly 500 people have reportedly died in six days of bitter fighting.

An estimated 3,000 army troops and commandos were moving to secure areas taken by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in parts of Sri Lanka's north and east, military and Tamil sources here said.

LTTE guerrillas, many in their teens, pounded at least two army camps with shoulder-fired rockets in northern Jaffna peninsula even as a senior government minister flew to the region for peace talks with the group's diehard leaders.

There was no immediate word on casualties in early Saturday's shelling of the Jaffna Fort Army Camp and the nearby Palaly Air Force Base, from where army troops had allegedly rained shells Friday [15 June] on LTTE positions, the sources here said.

"We are moving out of camps in some places and have encountered heavy resistance in a few areas," a military official here said, adding that all the three wings of the defence forces were engaged in the continuing battles. Security sources said an estimated 3,000 troops and members of the elite Special Task Force (STF) were engaged in the military sweep against the LTTE in the Tamil-majority northeastern region.

Hundreds of LTTE guerrillas, armed with sophisticated weapons including countless assault rifles and rocket launchers, are said to be involved in the fighting, the most serious since Indian troops quit Sri Lanka in March.

Heavy fighting was reported late Friday and Saturday particularly in northern Vavuniya region, which lies south of Jaffna peninsula, and in eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

A defence spokesman said 31 army soldiers "and 130 or so LTTE people" had died since fighting erupted Monday [11 June], though unofficial reports and Tamil sources claimed the fatalities had soared to nearly 500. The spokesman said 850 policemen abducted by the LTTE from various police stations which are now mostly under rebel controls were still missing. Some 200 of them have been reportedly massacred by the LTTE in recent days. The spokesman said 10 LTTE militants were killed

by government forces when they tried to massacre residents of a remote village populated by the Sinhalese majority community in the eastern wing Friday.

"In some spots we have not moved out but are reinforcing our strength," another defence source here said, adding that military withdrawals if any were only tactical in nature.

An LTTE spokesman, speaking over the phone from Jaffna, confirmed the death of "about 55" fighters of the group and alleged that more than 500 Tamil civilians had been killed by government troops, including in aerial bombing of rebel positions. "Everywhere fighting is going on," said the spokesman. "Civilians are dying in large numbers."

Communication links remained broken between Colombo and most Tamil towns in the northeast, making independent assessments of the claims difficult.

The LTTE spokesman could also give no details of the talks between the group's leaders and Justice Minister Shahul Hameed, who was said to be carrying a set of proposals approved by President Ranasinghe Premadasa. But no details of the proposals were immediately available.

The LTTE has reportedly demanded the withdrawal of all government troops from the northeast, while Colombo wants the group to free all the policemen its members have kidnapped and return their weapons.

Military officials here said they were awaiting orders from the government for an all-out offensive against LTTE positions if peace talks with Mr. Hameed failed. They said security forces had recaptured a number of police stations which the LTTE had taken over in the eastern town of Trincomalee and in Vavuniya and Mannar districts in the north Friday amid heavy fighting. The officials said a heavy build-up had been detected of LTTE cadres around all army camps in the Jaffna peninsula, a known guerrilla stronghold which has been under LTTE sway since the early 1980's.

They said 19 out of 42 soldiers guarding the pier at Talaimannar in Mannar district were missing after a pre-dawn attack by the LTTE Friday. Many policemen previously reported abducted by the LTTE have later turned up dead.

Two LTTE leaders, including Trincomalee's commander known by his nom de guerre Reuben, have been killed by security forces since Wednesday, dealing a major blow to the rebels.

The LTTE has been in virtual control of Sri Lanka's northeast, home to the Tamil minority, since Indian troops deployed in the island in mid-1987 after failing to disarm the Tiger guerrillas.

Opposition Signs Statement Denouncing LTTE

BK1606113490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The government takes note of the serious concern expressed by the political parties in the opposition consisting of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], USA [United Socialist Alliance], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and the SLMC [Sri Lanka Muslim Congress] on the severe threat faced by the country as a result of the totally indefensible action of the LTTE. At a time of national crisis such as this, when we should all be standing together to protect our territorial unity and integrity and the nation, it is salutary that these parties in the opposition support the government in denouncing the aggressive activities of some of the cadres of the LTTE.

However, a statement issued by the minister of state for defense says it is unfortunate that while doing so we have attempted to belittle the tremendous efforts that the government has been making to resolve the ethnic problem on the basis of reconciliation and goodwill. The policy of the Premadasa government has been always to employ consultation and dialogue in the solution to national problems. Confrontation inevitably means that the lives of innocent civilians will be affected. It is unfortunate too that at a time, when the government is taking meaningful steps to bring the LTTE into the democratic process, these attacks on the army and the police have taken place.

The statement says the draft legislation, which enables the dissolution of the provincial council, have been declared by the Supreme Court to be not inconsistent with the constitution and the part which should enable participation in the democratic process is now clear [as heard]. The opposition emphasizes that the fight against the LTTE is not the fight of the Sinhalese and Muslims against the Tamils but a fight of the Sinhalese, the Tamils, and the Muslims and all other communities inhabiting our land against the fascism of the LTTE. It beholds us all and the majority community, the Sinhalese in particular, to safeguard and protect the persons and property of all minorities living in all parts of the country.

Anura Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Dinesh Gunawardene of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, (Athavuda Seneviratne) of the United Socialist Alliance, V.K. Yogasankari of the EPRLF, J. Divyanandan of TELO, and M.H.M. Ashroff of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress signed the opposition statement.

Delhi Updates Situation, Casualties 16 Jun

BK1606131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the security forces today launched a massive offensive against the LTTE with the death toll crossing 500 in the six days of bitter fighting. Reports from Colombo say that an estimated 3,000 army troops

and commandos struck back at LTTE positions even as the chief political negotiator of the Sri Lankan Government, Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, flew to Jaffna with Colombo's response to the proposals of the LTTE on ending the fighting. The details of the proposals are not known. But informed sources in Colombo said the LTTE has demanded withdrawal of all troops from the north-eastern province as a precondition for a cease-fire. Jaffna, Palaly, Kankesanthurai came under heavy shelling yesterday, while the LTTE militants pounded at least two army camps with shoulder fired rockets in the peninsula.

An LTTE spokesman told UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] in Colombo on phone that people from the areas have fled and taken shelter in safer places. He said more than 500 civilians have been killed since hostilities broke out. He also put the LTTE's casualties at 55.

A military spokesman said 31 soldiers and 130 militants have been killed, while 800 policemen taken prisoner by the LTTE are missing.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, has said that he will call on the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, tomorrow in New Delhi to discuss the current development in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he said he had a call from the prime minister yesterday and this morning inviting him for a discussion. Mr. Karunanidhi said on his return from Delhi he would convene, if necessary, a meeting of all party leaders in the state to discuss the developments in Sri Lanka.

LTTE, Government Agree To End Fighting 16 Jun

BK1606130690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 16 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government and the dominant Tamil militant group agreed Saturday to end their armed conflict that has reportedly left nearly 500 people dead over the last six days. Federal Justice Minister Shahul Hameed and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) took the decision after seven hours of protracted negotiations in the northern town of Jaffna on Saturday, a government communique said.

The brief statement said the government and the LTTE decided to "stop armed hostilities with effect from 6 p.m. (1230 GMT) today (Saturday)."

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from the LTTE, hundreds of whose armed guerrillas have been fighting Sri Lankan Government troops since Monday [11 June], turning the island's Tamil-majority northeast into a war zone.

The fighting, during which heavily armed LTTE cadres overran several police stations and took up to 1,000 policemen hostages, has left almost 500 people dead, including army soldiers and policemen.

The communique said Mr. Hameed, who flew into Jaffna early Saturday for the second day in running, met the LTTE's top hierarchy, including its theorist Anton Balasingham and military strategist Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah.

"After seven hours of detailed discussions it was decided that both sides should stop armed hostilities with effect from 6 p.m. (1230 GMT) today (Saturday) and that early steps be taken to reopen the police stations that remain closed and all the outstanding issues be resolved through negotiations," it said.

The statement said the government and the LTTE also decided to "cooperate with one another" to provide medical aid to the injured and release "persons who are being held."

It added that Mr. Hammed and LTTE leaders would visit the affected districts in the northeast to ensure peace and normalcy.

Military Spokesman Says Cease-Fire Holding

BK1606161290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Colombo, June 16 (AFP)—A cease-fire went into effect in Sri Lanka Saturday [16 June] after six days of heavy fighting between government troops and Tamil guerrillas, in which more than 500 people have been reported dead. [passage omitted]

But it was not immediately clear if fighting had ended in the island's Tamil-majority northeastern region and a military spokesman here said it could take time for cease-fire orders to get to all army units.

"The cease-fire seems to be holding in most places," the spokesman said.

Tamil sources said by telephone that sporadic shelling and shooting was continuing in parts of eastern Batticaloa district, one of the worst affected areas in the recent fighting. There was also no independent confirmation of the cease-fire from the LTTE. [passage omitted]

The cease-fire statement said the government and the LTTE had agreed to take "early steps ... To reopen the police stations that remain closed and all the outstanding issues be resolved through negotiations." It added that the two sides had also decided to "cooperate with one another" to provide medical aid to the injured and release "persons who are being held."

Earlier Saturday, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said the violence in the northeast was "not a fight between Sinhalese and Tamils, but a conflict between the civilized and uncivilized society."

Mr. Premadasa's comments, made at a public meeting in central Kandy, were broadcast on state radio.

He also said parliament would be told on July 5 about a date for elections to choose a new regional administration in the northeast, one of the LTTE's long-standing demands. [passage omitted]

Tamil Refugees Reportedly Flee to India

BK1606162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—At least 34 people have arrived in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, fleeing fighting between Tamil guerrillas and security forces in Sri Lanka, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Saturday [16 June]. The refugees, mostly fishermen, arrived at the small port town of Ramsewaran Friday [15 June] and complained that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were acting in an "autocratic" manner and threatening their lives, PTI reported.

The news agency quoted the refugees as saying Sri Lankan navy gunboats had surrounded the area, where they could hear heavy shelling and gunfire. More civilians were fleeing the country fearing they would get caught in the crossfire, they said.

It was the first report of civilian refugees arriving in Tamil Nadu since intense fighting between the LTTE and government troops broke out on Monday, ending a 14-month truce.

On Friday the government reported that a number of severely wounded people, apparently Tigers, had been arrested while sheltering in a Tamil Nadu city. [passage omitted]

Colombo Confirms LTTE, Government Cease-Fire

BK1606134290 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Chairman of the northeast peace committee Shahul Hameed met the LTTE leaders, Gopalasamy Mahendraraja Mahattaya, Mr. Yogaratnam Yogi, Mr. Anton Balasingham, Mrs. Balasingham and [name indistinct] in Jaffna today. After seven hours of detailed discussion it was decided that both sides will stop armed hostilities with effect from 1800 [1230 GMT] today. It was also agreed that early steps be taken to reopen the police stations that remain closed and all the outstanding issues be resolved through negotiations.

Mr. Hameed and the LTTE leaders will visit the affected districts on Monday [18 June] with a view to ensuring that peace and normality in these districts be restored effectively.

LTTE Reportedly Violates Cease-Fire Agreement

BK1706093190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government says the LTTE has violated the cease-fire agreement reached yesterday. A spokesman of the Joint Operations Command said this morning that while government forces were holding their fire, the LTTE had attacked some security forces camps and the Palali Airport in north Jaffna. He said the Trincomalee police station and the Malwatta Army Camp in Amparai District were also attacked.

As already reported, under the cease-fire agreement reached yesterday, the two sides decided to stop armed hostilities and take early steps to reopen police stations that were closed in the northeast of the country. Fierce fighting claimed several hundred lives in the area last week.

Fighting Erupts Between Government Forces, LTTE

BK1706130890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, June 17 (AFP)—Fighting between Tamil guerrillas and government forces erupted in Sri Lanka's east Sunday, less than 24 hours after a cease-fire went into effect, Tamil sources and residents said. Army and para-military troops and heavily armed rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were shelling and rocketing each other's positions in at least six places in the coastal district of Batticaloa, the sources said.

"The STF (Special Task Force) and Army are shelling heavily," said a LTTE spokesman reached by telephone in the town of Batticaloa. He added that the Tamil-majority town itself was calm. He said the LTTE was not firing back "because we are observing the truce." But official sources here and Tamil residents in Batticaloa disputed the claim, saying shelling by both sides could be heard for the past two hours from Kiran and Punanai.

The report could not be verified by the Military High Command here, but sources close to the government confirmed that heavy fighting was continuing in Kiran, Kalawanchikudi, Punani, Chittandi, Konmadurai and Valaichenai.

Tamil sources said security forces had strafed LTTE guerrillas from helicopters at Kiran, killing at least one man believed to be a civilian. Other casualties, if any, were not immediately known. Unofficial sources said the Army camp at Kiran, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Batticaloa, was finding it difficult to evacuate its dead and wounded because of constant LTTE rocketing.

Tamil sources here said that the LTTE was attempting to prevent fresh reinforcements from reaching Army camps in Batticaloa and had blown up a bridge to prevent food convoys.

Earlier Sunday, LTTE rebels fired rockets on the Sri Lankan Air Force base at Palali in northern Jaffna peninsula, but there were no casualties, a defence spokesman here said. [passage omitted]

Colombo Reports 'Minor' Cease-Fire Violations

BK1706132490 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The cease-fire agreed upon yesterday between the chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee, Shahul Hameed, and the LTTE leadership has been satisfactorily observed except for a few minor violations. The Ministry of Defense, in a communique on the security situation in the northern and eastern provinces, said this afternoon that the cease-fire violations could be due to lack of communications with remote places. The communique adds that the authorities are monitoring the situation. The cease-fire came into effect at 1800 yesterday.

'Heavy Shelling' by Both Sides Reported 18 Jun

BK1806010690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Fighting has been going on in several parts of northeast Sri Lanka despite Saturday's [16 June] cease-fire between government forces and the LTTE. At least two soldiers have been killed. The Sri Lankan military authorities say, the LTTE have continued to launch unprovoked attacks, while the militants have accused the government side of violating the cease-fire by carrying out large-scale troop movements. Military officials confirmed the reports that heavy shelling on both sides was going on in and around Batticaloa town.

Rebels Warned Against 'Outwitting' Government

BK1706112690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa has stressed the need for joint efforts by all communities in the country to promote national peace. The president was speaking in Kandy yesterday after declaring open a new market complex to coincide with the Gamudawa [village development program] anniversary celebrations. He said that the program adopted by government has established Sri Lanka in the eyes of the world as a nation guided by justice.

The president, tracing the history of ethnic conflicts which affected national development and gave rise to separatist sentiments, said that the movement also received assistance from abroad. He pointed out that the divisions within the country gave rise to movements seeking separation, leading to the arrival of the Indian troops. In this situation, terrorism raised its head in other parts of the country, misleading the youth.

Mr. Premadasa spoke of untiring efforts since assuming office to obtain an Indian withdrawal. The realistic approach of the new Indian Government also contributed to the withdrawal. He said that the guiding principle of solving problems since he came to power has been discussion and consultation and not dependence on weapons.

The president warned that if the LTTE goes ahead with outwitting the government, contrary to democratic behavior, and putting the people into difficulty, they have be prepared to face the fate suffered in similar circumstances by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna].

Government Declares 'Virtual War' on Rebels

BK1806071490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 18 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has declared a virtual war on Tamil guerrillas, as heavy fighting raged for the second straight day Monday [18 June] in the island's Tamil northeast, military and Tamil sources said.

The government gave field commanders in the northeastern province unlimited powers to crush the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a defence spokesman here said. "They (commanders) have been authorised to do what they want depending on the situation," said the spokesman, as the death toll in clashes between troops and Tamil guerrillas since June 11 reportedly soared to 600.

The casualties included some 80 army soldiers, including 40 commandos who were killed by the LTTE at Muttur town, in eastern Trincomalee district Sunday [17 June], after a cease-fire declared a day earlier collapsed within 24 hours.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) quoted defence officials as saying that the commanders "have also been given powers to plan counter-attacks in troubled areas."

Tamil sources here said that the announcement indicated that Colombo's patience with the LTTE, a separatist group with which it has been holding peace talks since April 1989, was fast running out.

The LTTE, the most powerful Tamil group in the island, said in a statement received here Monday from London that Sri Lankan forces had launched large-scale attacks almost all over the Tamil-majority northeast.

"Sri Lankan forces continued their mission of bombing and strafing residential areas in the north and east, while the army launched indiscriminate shelling from their camps," it said. The statement accused government troops of causing widespread civilian casualties, including "an indiscriminate attack on a funeral procession" Sunday in northern Killinochci district.

There is no overall casualty toll in the week-long fighting, the most severe since Indian troops quit Sri Lanka in March, but both official and Tamil sources say it could be approaching 600.

The defence spokesman said at least 175 LTTE fighters, many of whom are in their teens, had died so far, while a minister was quoted as saying here Monday that more than 100 civilians had died in eastern Ampara district alone.

The LTTE has alleged more than 500 civilian deaths, but the claim could not be independently verified.

The defence spokesman said LTTE guerrillas launched a fierce attack on a strategically located army camp at Kiran, in eastern Batticaloa district, early Monday, raining mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

"They have even used an unknown gas, but we do not know what effect it will have on our men," he added.

The Kiran camp, located on the road to Batticaloa town, has been said to be running short of food and water, but security sources said that some 100 soldiers besieged there were putting up stiff resistence.

The spokesman said two security personnel were shot dead and 13 others injured when militants opened machine gun fire at Polonaruwa, near Batticaloa but outside the northeastern province.

Bodies of two other soldiers missing at Talaimannar, in the northwest, were handed over to security forces by a government official, he added.

The LTTE, which is seeking to prevent army reinforcements from reaching Tamil areas, had also destroyed the Mannar police station building after firing shoulder-held rockets and mortars.

Hundreds of heavily-armed LTTE cadres, including young women, are engaged in the latest fighting which has crippled life in the sprawling northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

Defence officials confirmed that the LTTE had blown up a 100-feet-long bridge linking Polonaruwa and Batticaloa, cutting off reinforcements and food supplies to several army units.

The LTTE said the Sri Lankan Air Force had bombed four places in Batticaloa, killing a child and three civilians, and Trincomalee where two other civilians died.

It alleged there was army shelling and strafing from helicopters in both Vavuniya, in the north, and the nearby Mullativu area, an LTTE stronghold.

Defence sources said a helicopter which landed at an army camp in Mankulam, in the north, was forced to take off after collecting bodies of only two of seven soldiers when it came under heavy mortar attack.

The LTTE has virtually controlled the northeast since India withdrew her troops after unsuccessfully trying for more than two years to disarm the group. The troops were deployed under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka pact to end Tamil separatism.

But relations between the rebel group and government forces became strained after the Indian pullout.

The fighting broke out June 11 after the LTTE overran several police stations and seized hundreds of policemen. Police officials here say that some 125 of them have been killed, while the fate of others is unknown.

Defense Spokesman Says Heavy Fighting Continues

BK1806112790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] A spokesman for the minister of defense told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] this morning that renewed heavy fighting between the security forces and the LTTE was reported in various places in the northern and eastern provinces by late evening yesterday. The Tigers have blown up the 100-foot-long Kaluwanchikudi bridge and killed 40 commandos in Muttur in Trincomalee. According to informed sources, there were heavy casualties in the LTTE cadres. The army camps at Kiran, Palali, Vavuniya, Muttur, and Kaluwanchikudi have been attacked by the LTTE cadres.

Reports reaching Colombo said that a naval boat bringing food items had been fired at Karainagar area. Meanwhile, field commanding officers have been appointed to handle the present situation. The spokesman said that powers have been given to these commanding officers to act in accordance to their wishes to control the situation. They have also been given powers to plan counterattacks in troubled areas.

Government Vows To 'Wipe Out' Tamil Rebels

BK1806160990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 18 (AFP)—A senior Sri Lankan minister Monday vowed to wipe out Tamil separatist guerrillas and said government troops had killed some 600 rebels in the past three days. "I will go all out for the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," the minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, told Parliament at the end of a nearly nine-hour debate on extending emergency rule in the country.

"The LTTE has over-reached itself," he said in reference to the conflict raging between LTTE guerrillas and government forces in the island's northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. Mr. Wijeratne said troops would go all out to catch the LTTE's legendary leader Velupillai Prabhakaran "and his cronies, wherever they are in this country.... They will have to die in this country."

The minister's 45-minute speech was repeatedly punctuated with thunderous applause from both ruling party and opposition MPs, most of whom belong to the majority Sinhalese community.

"We have killed 600 of their men in the last three days," he added. Mr. Wijeratne's admission pushed the possible death toll in the fierce fighting between the troops and heavily armed LTTE guerrillas since June 11 to nearly 900.

The minister said there would no more cease-fires. "If (the LTTE) want to talk, they must lay down arms and

talk under our conditions," he said, evoking an approving thumping of benches.

Mr. Wijeratne said the government had made genuine efforts to resolve the country's ethnic conflict, which has left thousands dead since 1983, by opening peace talks with the powerful LTTE in April last year. The fighting between the LTTE and government troops began June 11 after Tamil rebels overran several police stations and seized more than 500 policemen across the Tamil-majority northeast.

Mr. Wijeratne said he feared the LTTE may have killed the captive policemen, adding that "if they have committed genocide (of the policemen), they will pay dearly." Earlier reports set the number of captured policemen at over 800.

Earlier, Justice Minister Shahul Hameed, who has been the government negotiator with the LTTE, charged the militant group with violating a cease-fire that went into effect Saturday.

Before the ministers' speeches, opposition MPs blamed Colombo for the intense fighting in the northeast, saying the government was responsible for the rebel arms build-up over the past year.

Sri Lanka Freedom Party MP Halim Ishak said the LTTE "treated the government like jokers" during the talks. "They were never concerned about a settlement. The government allowed the LTTE to stock arms during the talks."

Party colleague C.V. Gooneratne charged Colombo with "gross neglect of duty and unbridled political opportunism," and said the government had abdicated its responsibility in the northeast.

Almost all opposition and ruling party MPs who spoke during the debate attacked the LTTE as "fascist" and said moves against the rebels were not a war on the Tamil community.

Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict sparked a fierce separatist campaign after hundreds of Tamils were killed in riots here in july 1983. The riots followed a rebel ambush in northern Jaffna peninsula that killed 13 Army troops.